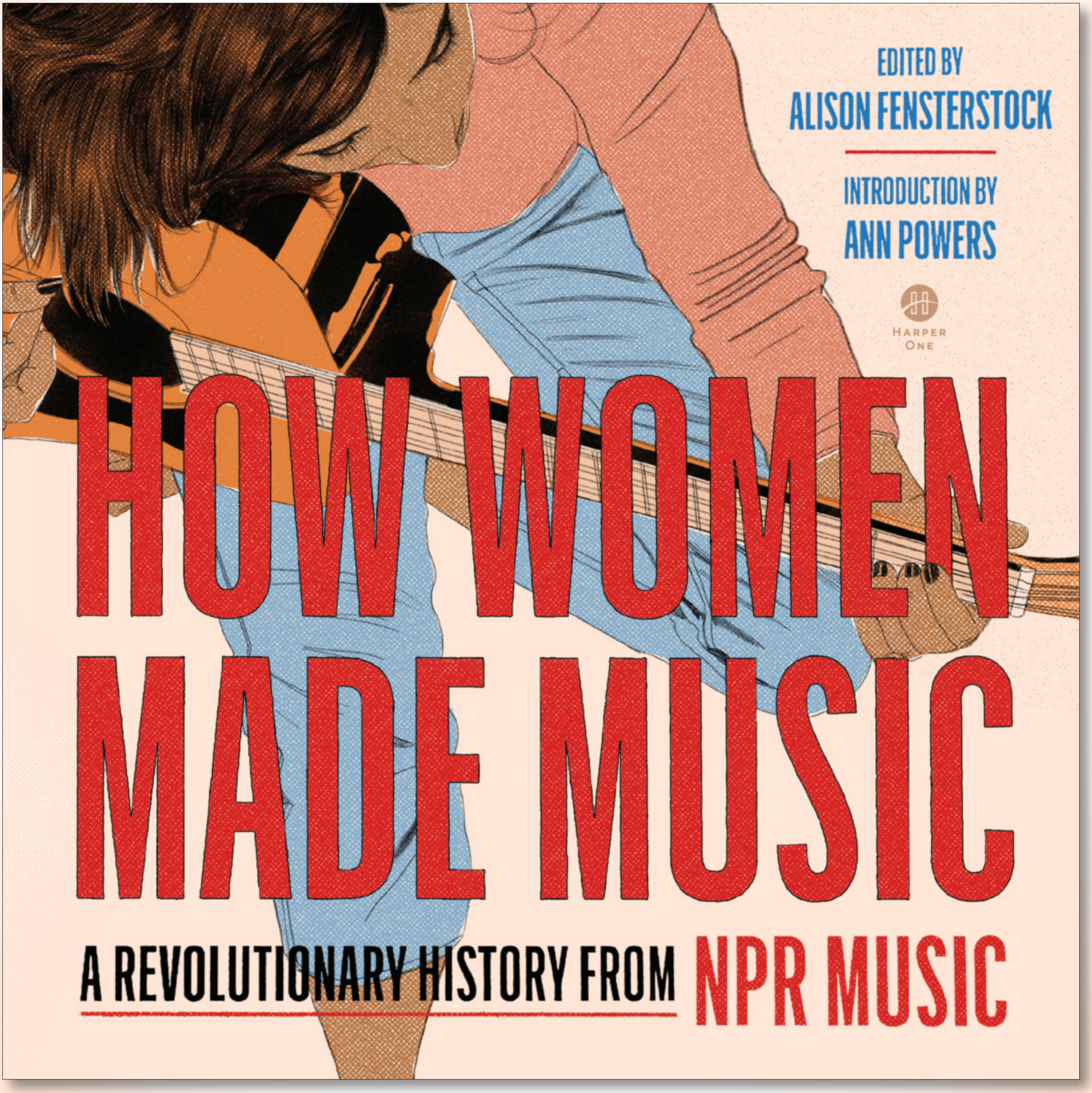
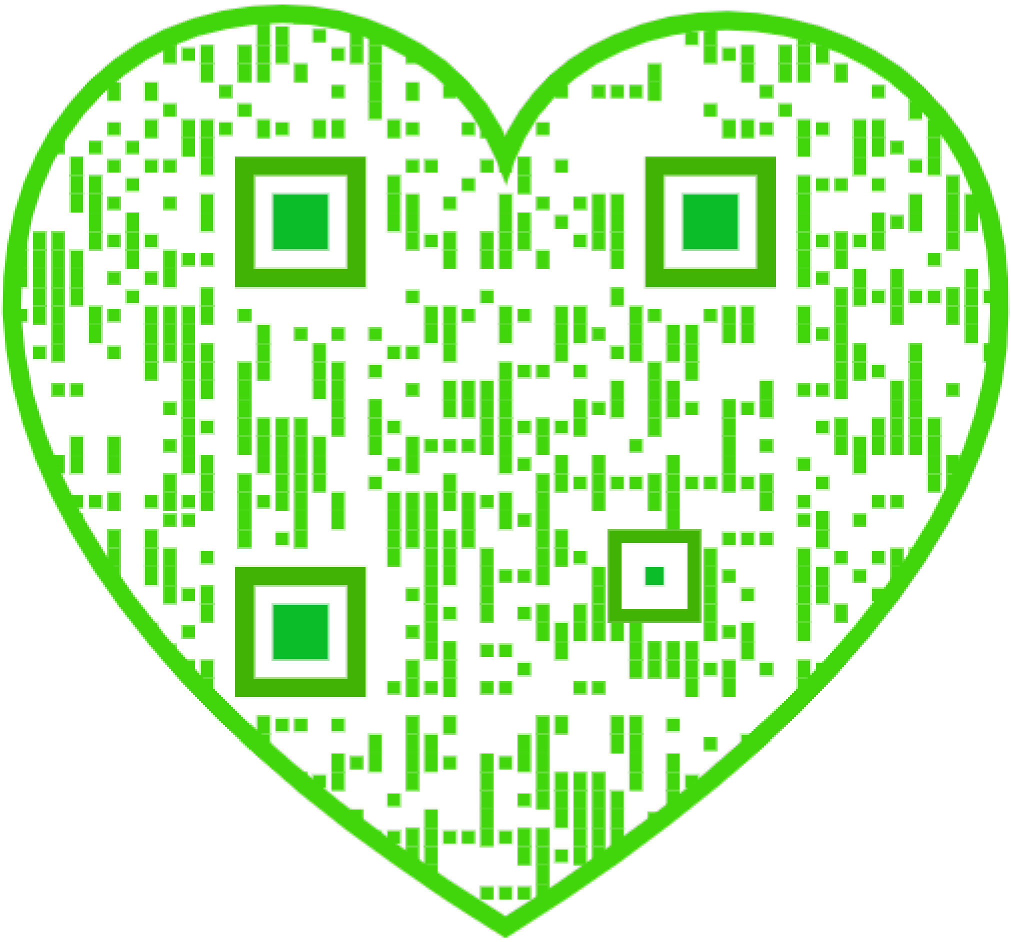
DISCOVER THE WORLD OF AUDIOBOOKS

AudioFile®

audiofilemagazine.com


EDITED BY
ALISON FENSTERSTOCK
INTRODUCTION BY
ANN POWERS
HARPER ONE
HOW WOMEN MADE MUSIC
A REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY FROM NPR MUSIC

April/May 2025
USA $6.00/Canada $8.00



The highly anticipated new novel in the *DCI Cormac Reilly* series, from the No.1 bestselling author of *The Ruin* and *What Happened to Nina*

'A haunting mystery that will have you turning pages late into the night. This is Gone Girl*-level good writing.'*
Janet Evanovich

9:41
Library
DERVLA McTIERNAN
THE UNQUIET GRAVE
A CORMAC REILLY NOVEL
Bolinda audio
complete & unabridged
Chapter 1
2:55
7 hr, 20 min left
12:36
15
15
1x

Follow the Leaders

@bolindaaudio

Bolinda audio

Dreamscape
Lore
Journey Into Audio
THE LAST DAYS OF GOOD PEOPLE
A.T. SAYRE
THAUMATURGIC TAPAS
NARRATED BY EMILY WOO ZELLER
A HIDDEN DISHES NOVELLA
TAO WONG
VITALY S ALEXIUS
BOOK 1
TECHNOMAGICA
ToraAKR
SURRENDER OF THE DENSITY GOD
BOOK 4
OF MONSTERS AND MAINFRAMES
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
BETH REVIS
LAST CHANCE TO SAVE THE WORLD
TO VIEW OUR AUDIOBOOK CATALOG, VISIT DREAMSCAPEPUBLISHING.COM.

L.A. THEATRE WORKS **LATW**

SUSAN A. LOEWENBERG, PRODUCING DIRECTOR

IMMERSIVE SOUND!

"Well produced and thoughtful."
—AudioFile Magazine

Acclaimed playwright Jeanne Sakata has created a new audio adaptation of the beloved children's classic in this LATW full-cast recording. Mary Lennox is an orphaned 10-year-old who is sent to live with her uncle in his country house on the moors. Her new life is almost unbearable, but when she hears stories of the estate's mysterious, abandoned garden she's determined to discover its secrets.

L.A. THEATRE WORKS LATW
SUSAN A. LOEWENBERG, PRODUCING DIRECTOR
FRANCES HODGSON BURNETT
THE SECRET GARDEN
ENHANCED EDITION
Adapted by JEANNE SAKATA
Directed by JESSICA KUBZANSKY

PLAYS. STARS. OUTSTANDING LISTENS.
SUBSCRIBE TODAY AT STREAMING.LATW.ORG

2025 Audie Finalist
Audio Publishers Association

exceptional audio
AudioFile
EARPHONES AWARD

AVAILABLE IN TWO VERSIONS:

ENHANCED EDITION — *An immersive headphones-only experience designed to transport you into the story.*
STANDARD EDITION — *Perfect for listening anywhere, anytime, on any device.*

What to do at www.AudioFilemagazine.com

Read Our Reviews

Find your next great audiobook with our audio-focused reviews.

Historical Fiction
Mystery & Suspense
Biography & Memoir
Audio Theater

Meet the Narrators

Audiobook narrators make the magic. Learn about the voices you love.

Listen to Our Podcast

Short daily episodes with audiobook recommendations, plus bonus interviews.

AudioFile® BEHIND THE MIC

exceptional audio
AudioFile® EARPHONES AWARD

Discover Award Winners

Explore Earphones Award-winning audiobooks for great listening.

Read Our Articles

Dive deep into favorite genres, and watch narrator videos.

Hear Sound Samples

Sample audiobooks to choose your next listen.

Subscribe to AudioFile

Get the print or digital edition of the magazine 6x per year.

BEST AUDIOBOOKS OF THE YEAR
AudioFile
THE YEAR IN AUDIOBOOKS 2023

Get Your Next Audiobook

Find audiobooks at the library, bookstore, or online. AudioFile does not sell audiobooks

AudioFile®
AudioFileMagazine.com

AudioFile®
Discover the World of Audiobooks

Robin F. Whitten	Editor/Founder
Michele L. Cobb	Publisher
Jennifer M. Dowell	Managing Editor
Elizabeth K. Dodge	Review Editor
Jennifer Steele	Production Manager
Coco McCracken	Assistant Editor
Laura Rossi	Director of Publicity
Joanne Simoneau	Editorial Assistant
Alisha Langerman	Editorial Assistant
Gabrielle Haley	Assistant Editor
Jessica Lockhart	Podcast Producer
Sharon A. Allen	Digital Assistant
Margaret Pinard	Social Media Editor

Vol. 33, No. 6
Contributing Editors: Caitlin Augusta, S.J. Henschel, Alan Minskoff, Ellen Quint, Josephine Reed, Laura Sackton, Aurelia C. Scott, Thomas Walken, Kendra Winchester

Contributors: Emily E. Connelly, Amira Mahoud

AudioFile's Mission

AudioFile reviews unabridged audiobooks, original audio programs, commentary and dramatizations in the spoken-word format. Our focus is the audio presentation, not critique of the written material.

AudioFile reviewers are listeners in the information, education, and performance fields. All reviews are signed.

AudioFile awards Earphones to truly exceptional presentations that excel in all the following criteria:

- Narrative voice and style
- Vocal characterizations
- Appropriateness for the audio format
- Enhancement of the text

AudioFile®
37 Silver St., Portland, ME 04101
207-774-7563
info@audiofilemagazine.com
audiofilemagazine.com

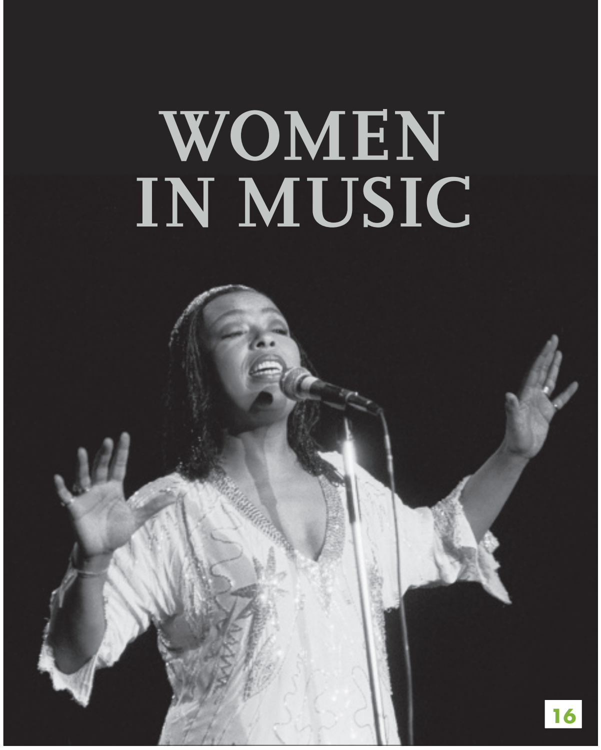
© 2025 by *AudioFile*® Publications, Inc.
All rights reserved. ISSN 1063-0244.
AudioFile is an information source for audiobook reviews and resources.

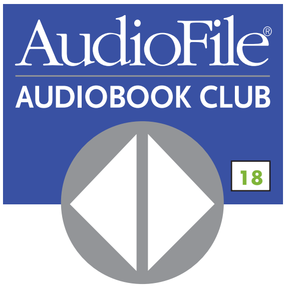
Customer Service

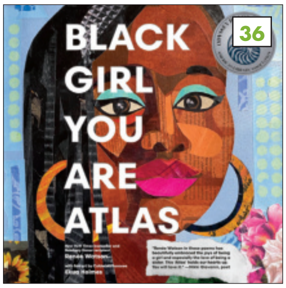
800-506-1212

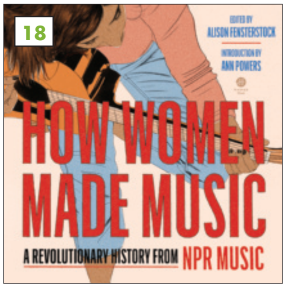
Subscribers!

Full Web site access
is part of your
AudioFile subscription.
audiofilemagazine.com


WOMEN IN MUSIC
16


AudioFile®
AUDIOBOOK CLUB
18


BLACK GIRL YOU ARE ATLAS
36


18
EDITED BY ALISON FENSTERSTOCK
INTRODUCTION BY ANN POWERS
HOW WOMEN MADE MUSIC
A REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY FROM NPR MUSIC

My Name Is
Barbra
Barbra Streisand
Read by the Author
20

Roberta Flack photo by Paul Natkin, Maryrose Wood photo by Amira Mahoud

Contents *April/May 2025* Vol. 33, No. 6

AudioFile's Audiobook Club

18 Behind the Mic: *How Women Made Music*
Learn more about our spring Audiobook Club pick and read our interview with editors Alison Fensterstock and Ann Powers

Reviews & Features

20 Contemporary Culture
Spotlight: Women in Music Booklist
24 4 Big Listens for Kids & Teens
26 Talking with Author Kyle Lukoff & Narrator Will Malloy
28 Children & Family Listening
Spotlight: Author Adrianna Cuevas
34 Young Adult
38 Fiction
44 Tease
46 Romance
48 Mystery & Suspense
50 Talking with Author Dervla McTiernan
56 Classics, Poetry & Drama
58 Learning By Ear Help Me Think About This
60 Biography & Memoir
62 History & Biography
64 Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror

Departments

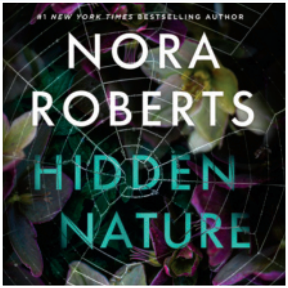
5 Editor's Notes
6 Contributors & Reviewers
8 Editors' Picks The Most Intriguing Upcoming Audiobook Releases in April & May 2025
70 Audiobooks and Literacy 2025 Odyssey Award & Newbery Medal
72 Listening With . . . Author Maryrose Wood

Resources

2 Mission
68 Index of Print Reviews
71 Advertiser Directory

audiofilemagazine.com
Visit our Web site for more reviews, sound clips, and a complete list of all audiobook new releases

Take the
LONG WAY HOME
FROM MACMILLAN AUDIO

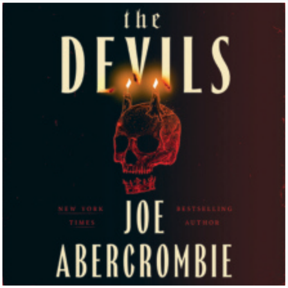


#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
NORA ROBERTS
HIDDEN NATURE

Read by January LaVoy

PARENTS WEEKEND
A NOVEL
ALEX FINLAY

Read by Brittany Pressley



the DEVILS
JOE ABERCROMBIE

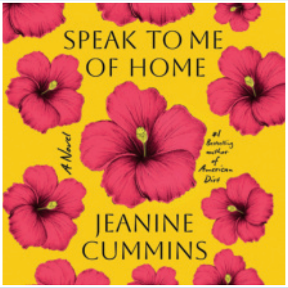
Read by Steven Pacey

KATHERINE CENTER
THE LOVE HATERS

Read by Patti Murin

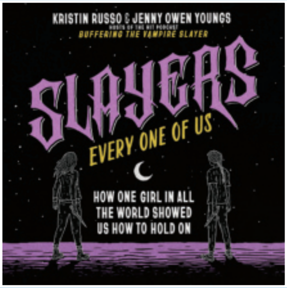
GIFTED & TALENTED
OLIVIE BLAKE

Read by Eunice Wong



SPEAK TO ME OF HOME
A Novel
JEANINE CUMMINS

Read by Almarie Guerra

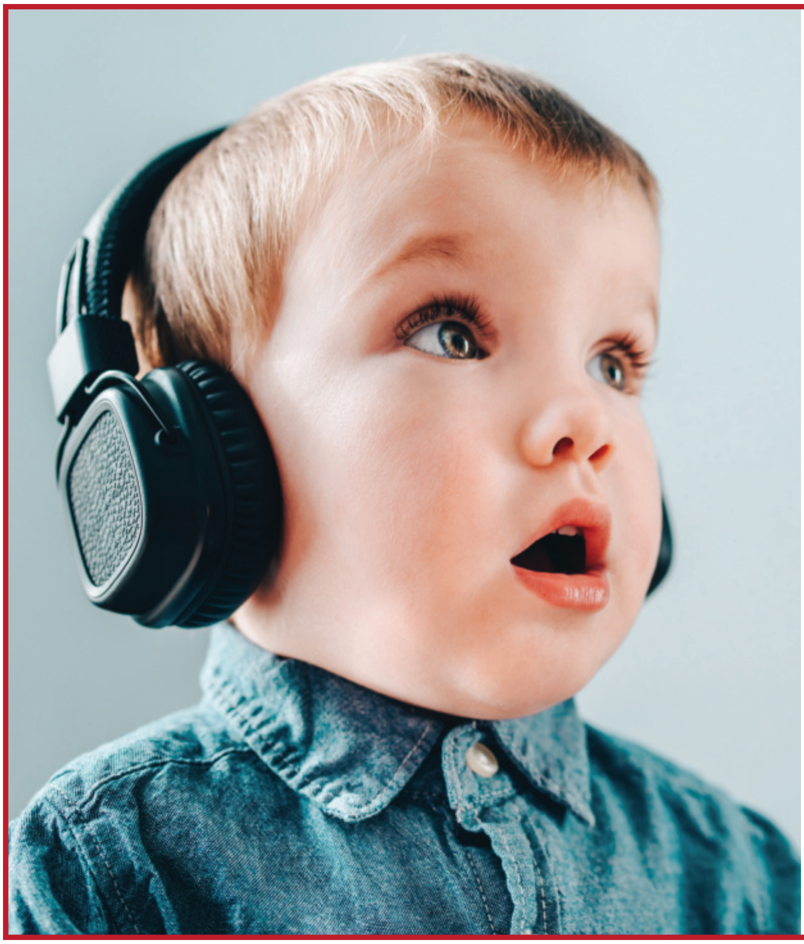


KRISTIN RUSSO & JENNY OWEN YOUNGS
SLAYERS
EVERY ONE OF US
HOW ONE GIRL IN ALL THE WORLD SHOWED US HOW TO HOLD ON

Read by the authors

WE LIVE HERE NOW
SARAH PINBOROUGH

Read by Helen Baxendale
& Jamie Glover



Find your next great listen.

Connect with AudioFile online —there are lots of ways to find audiobook recommendations!

- New Reviews
- Daily Podcasts
- Award Winners
- Narrator Interviews
- Featured Authors
- Email Newsletters

AudioFile®

A New Season of Audiobook Club

▶ With this issue, we're thrilled to announce our spring Audiobook Club pick: *How Women Made Music*. This dynamic title truly shines as an audiobook—it's an Earphones Award winner and was one of our Best Audiobooks of 2024. On page 18, we have an excerpted conversation with editors Alison Fensterstock and Ann Powers—be sure to visit **audiofilemagazine.com/audiobook-club** to hear their full conversation on our special bonus podcast episode. While you're there, you can also find videos from Ann Powers talking about the late Roberta Flack, and from two researchers who contributed to *How Women Made Music*, plus playlists (essential, since the audiobook is all about music!), activity suggestions, listen-alikes, and more.

We also always have a special focus on audiobooks for kids and teens with this April/May issue. In addition to lots of new reviews for all ages, you'll find an interview with author Kyle Lukoff and narrator Will Malloy, who talk about their friendship and the importance, now more than ever, of telling trans stories (see page 26). In our back page "Listening With" feature, we speak with children's book author Maryrose Wood about her newest title for young listeners, a wonderful fable about friendship, *Bad Badger*. (See page 72.) And we also have a roundup of the latest ALA Odyssey Award winners (see page 70).

Mystery fans won't want to miss Ellen Quint's interview with Dervla McTiernan, author of blockbuster thrillers like *What Happened to Nina?* and the Cormac Reilly series. (See page 50.) For more mystery and suspense content, be sure to check out Ellen's regular column "Solve" on *AudioFile*'s website.

Finally, during a busy audiobook season, the Audio Publishers Association celebrated the 30th anniversary of the Audie Awards at a gala in New York City in March. Actor Whoopi Goldberg won the Audie Award for best Narration by the Author for her memoir, *Bits and Pieces*. Whoopi is a huge audiobook fan and listener herself, and in her lovely acceptance speech, she thanked the many narrators in the room: "Just remember that there are thousands of people whose lives you put in balance because of what you do." It made the work we do of sharing audiobook recommendations feel that much more important.

Jennifer Dowell

Jennifer Dowell
Managing Editor

Editor's Note: Managing Editor Jenn Dowell has such a great affection and affinity for teen & family audiobooks, she gets the floor here. Next issue, I'll return to this page. Also, a special thank you to illustrator Marty Braun for "iconizing" Jenn above.—*Robin Whitten*

Illustration by Marty Braun

AudioFile
AUDIOBOOK CLUB

Inside Track

AudioFile Audiobook Club
audiofilemagazine.com/audiobook-club

Behind the Mic Podcast
audiofilemagazine.com/podcast

Articles
audiofilemagazine.com/articles

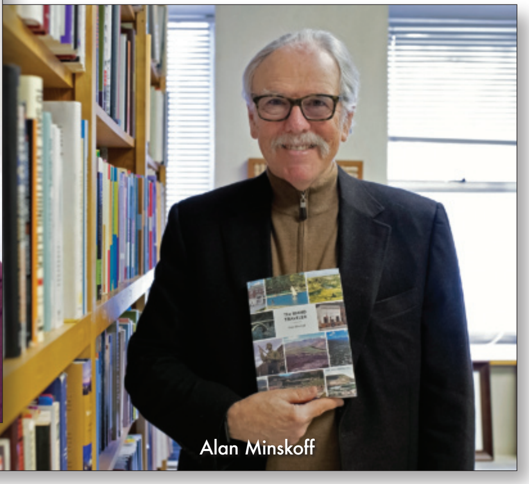
Contributors

Tom Walken

Ellen Quint

Jo Reed

Caitlin Augusta


Alan Minskoff

Caitlin Augusta
Contributing Editor Caitlin Augusta ("Tease," page 44) is a librarian at the Stratford Library in Connecticut. She has reviewed for *AudioFile* since 2006 and judged for the Audies since 2010. She is a longtime Jane Austen fan and romance reader who loves the variety of memorable characters, talented narrators, and happy endings found in romance audio.

Alan Minskoff
Reviewer Alan Minskoff listens to audiobooks as he commutes from his house in Boise to his work at the College of Idaho in Caldwell, and when he walks his flat-coated retrievers along the Boise River or on the greenbelt. He's also the author of the book *The Idaho Traveler*. In addition to reviewing, Alan is a regular contributor to *AudioFile*'s podcast Behind the Mic. Recently, he discussed Alton Brown's *Food for Thought* (page 32).

Ellen Quint
A mystery writer, audiobook reviewer, and Audies judge, Ellen Quint (Dervla McTiernan profile, page 50) is currently the program chair of Sisters in Crime-NY and has published two crime short stories: "Crossing the Line" (*Family Matters*) and "Taking the Brooklyn Bridge Back" (*Where Crime Never Sleeps*). Ellen also writes the "Solve" column about mystery and thriller audiobooks on *AudioFile*'s website. Find it at **audiofilemagazine.com/articles/ellen-quint**

Jo Reed
AudioFile's podcast host Jo Reed ("Behind the Mic: *How Women Made Music*," page 18) is a compulsive listener of audiobooks. She was the program director of the book and theater channel on XM Satellite Radio, where she created, produced, and hosted "This Is Audible" and "Writers on Writing." She also created, produced, and hosted the literary show "On the Margin" for WPFW, where it ran for 18 years.

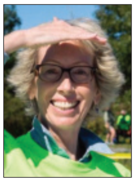
Tom Walken
Contributing Editor Tom Walken ("Learning by Ear," Page 58) began writing for *AudioFile* in 1995 when he was in psychology and managing a mental health practice. He says his nonfiction listening helps his executive coaching practice and makes his outdoor walks more stimulating. His free time is spent with music, cooking, family, and fixing things.

Want to be part of *AudioFile*'s review team?

While we work with more than 100 reviewers, we are always interested in new reviewers. We value fresh opinions across all genres. If you are a very active listener, have writing experience, and are interested in discussing the audiobook performance in 125 words or less—you are welcome to apply to editor Robin Whitten, **robin@audiofilemagazine.com**.

Jo Reed photo by John Boal

Reviewers


A.C.S.

A.K.R.

A.L.C.

A.A.H.	Ash Holland, *Bookshop Owner*, ME
A.B.	Anna Broome, *Audiophile*, ME
A.C.S.	Aurelia C. Scott, *Writer*, ME
A.D.M.	Alan Minskoff, *Educator*, ID
A.K.R.	Alex Richey, *Librarian*, ME
A.L.C.	Amanda Costello, *Writer*, NE
A.M.	Ana G. Menchaca, *Librarian*, TX
B.A.G.	Elizabeth Gabriel, *Librarian*, WI
B.P.	Brian Price, *Playwright/ Director*, IN

A.M.

B.P.

C.R.

C.A.	Caitlin Augusta, *Librarian*, CT
C.A.P.	Crystal Patenaude, *Audiophile*, CT
C.F.	Catherine Fithian, *Librarian & Bookseller*, CA
C.R.	Courtney Rodgers, *Writer*, TX
D.A.W.	David A. Walton, *Writer*, PA
D.B.	Dan Bortolotti, *Writer*, ON
D.E.M.	Dale E. McGarrigle, *Writer*, ME
D.J.S.	Daniel J. Siegel, *Audiophile*, PA
D.L.G.	Diana Granger, *Librarian*, WI
D.M.H.	David M. Harris, *Writer*, TN
E.E.C.	Emily Connelly, *Librarian*, ME
E.E.S.	Elaine Sumner, *Librarian*, RI

D.J.S.

D.L.G.

D.M.H.

G.M.

J.E.M.

J.J.M.

E.J.F.	Elizabeth Fraser, *Calgary Public Library*, AB
E.Q.	Ellen Quint, *Writer*, NY
F.S.M.	Flor Silva Meurinne, *Audiophile*, CA
G.M.	Gina Monti, *Librarian*, CT
J.A.S.	James A. Stewart, *Writer*, PA
J.E.M.	Joyce E. McCarty, *Audiophile*, VA
J.J.M.	Jodi Martin, *Teacher*, NC
J.M.D.	Jennifer M. Dowell, AudioFile, ME

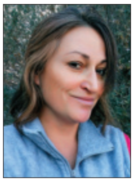
J.M.D.

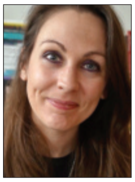
J.M.M.

J.R.T.

J.M.M.	John M. Murray, *Audiophile*, CA
J.R.T.	Julie Thompson, *Librarian*, WA
J.T.	Jessica Teel, *Writer*, AK
K.D.W.	Kendra Winchester, *Writer*, SC
K.J.P.	Kate Pullen, *Writer*, Spain
K.M.P.	Katie Polley, *Librarian*, MN
L.B.F.	Leslie B. Fine, *Educator*, NY
L.M.	Liz Maloney, *Contract Librarian*, MD
L.M.G.	Lisa Grimaldi, *Dyer Library*, ME
L.S.	Laura Sackton, *Writer*, MA
L.T.	Lisa Taylor, *Librarian*, FL
L.W.S.	Lorraine W. Shanley, *Audiophile*, NY

Continued on page 71


J.T.


K.D.W.

L.S.

Reviewer Spotlight

Miriam Kahn (M.B.K.)

I'll admit, I'm addicted to audiobooks. There's always one in my car, computer, or ears. Over the decades, audiobooks have taken me to every continent and even to outer space. I've explored the past to the present and into the future; history, science, biography and memoir, and literature and fiction, read by talented voice actors and authors. After all these years, I'm still excited to plug into a new title in my queue, then write that carefully crafted review.

Susan Baird (S.G.B.)

Before retiring as a librarian, I had the pleasure and honor of beginning and maintaining an audiobook collection, starting with cassette tapes. Amazingly, I've been with *AudioFile* since its inception! I continue to enjoy sharing my reviews and helping readers find great new listening discoveries. I'm fortunate to help select independently-published audiobooks for reviewing. Walking is my favorite exercise, and audiobooks help make each step more enjoyable.

Editors' Picks

JESSE Q. SUTANTO
Vera Wong's Guide to Snooping (on a Dead Man): Vera Wong, Book 2
Read by Eunice Wong

This follow-up to *Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers* finds Vera investigating a young woman's missing friend.

Penguin Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217063864 $22.50
Release date: April 1

JOHN SHEN YEN NEE, SJ ROZAN
The Railway Conspiracy: Dee and Lao Mysteries, Book 2
Read by Daniel York Loh

Expect more mystery, murder, and big fight scenes in 1920s London in this sequel to *The Murder of Mr. Ma.*

Recorded Books Unabridged
Library Ed.: CD ISBN 9798895940785 $94.75
(also MP3)
Release date: April 1

KIESE LAYMON
City Summer, Country Summer
Read by Samuel Eubanks

For young listeners, a story of three Black boys who have a magical summer together visiting family in Mississippi.

Listening Library Unabridged Ages 6+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593683668 $5.00
Release date: April 1

ROBERT JACKSON BENNETT
A Drop of Corruption: Shadow of the Leviathan, Book 2
Read by Andrew Fallaize

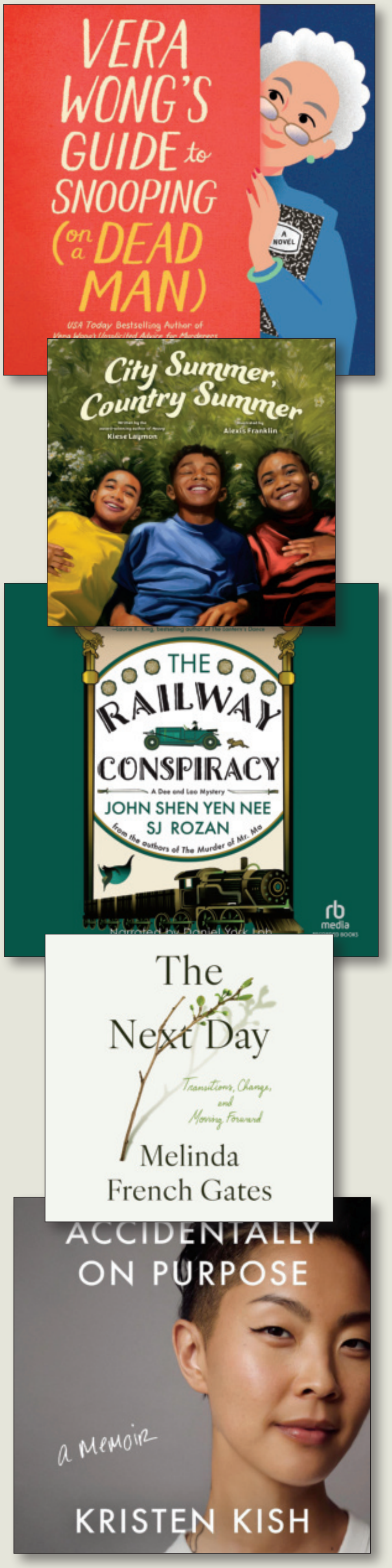
Investigator Ana Dolabra and her assistant Din are back on the case in this sequel to *The Tainted Cup.*

Random House Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593949948 $25.00
Release date: April 1

JONNY GARZA VILLA
Futbolista
Read by Robb Moreira

College students Gabriel and Vale navigate friendship, romance, and Gabe's future as a soccer player.

Recorded Books Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798896793434 $27.99
Release date: April 15



VERA WONG'S GUIDE to SNOOPING (on a DEAD MAN)
USA Today Bestselling Author of Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers
A NOVEL
City Summer, Country Summer
Kiese Laymon
Alexis Franklin
THE RAILWAY CONSPIRACY
A Dee and Lao Mystery
JOHN SHEN YEN NEE
SJ ROZAN
from the authors of The Murder of Mr. Ma
rb media
The Next Day
Transitions, Change, and Moving Forward
Melinda French Gates
ACCIDENTALLY ON PURPOSE
a memoir
KRISTEN KISH

DAVID BALDACCI
Strangers in Time
Read by David Baldacci, Stewart Crank, Alexandra Boulton, John Lee, Nicola F. Delgado, Matthew Lloyd Davies, Joe Pitts

In this departure for Baldacci set during WWII, the lives of a bookshop owner and two teenagers become intertwined.

Hachette Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668642696 $31.99
Release date: April 15

MELINDA FRENCH GATES
The Next Day: Transitions, Change, and Moving Forward
Read by Melinda French Gates

Drawing from her own experiences, Gates reflects on navigating life's transitions.

Macmillan Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250388896 $10.00
Release date: April 15

ANTONIA HODGSON
The Raven Scholar: Eternal Path Trilogy, Book 1
Read by Daphne Kouma

In this fantasy, a scholar must solve the murder of a contender to be her empire's new leader.

Hachette Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668647806 $44.99
Release date: April 15

KRISTEN KISH
Accidentally on Purpose
Read by Kristen Kish

This should be a delicious memoir from the "Top Chef" winner and later host.

Hachette Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668648001 $27.99
Release date: April 22

MORGAN JERKINS
Zeal
Read by January LaVoy, Shayna Small

January LaVoy and Shanya Small team up to narrate this love story that spans generations.

Harper Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063234123 $33.59
Release date: April 22

New Releases Online! Hundreds of upcoming titles at audiofilemagazine.com/newreleases

JOSÉ ANDRÉS, RICHARD WOLFFE
Change the Recipe: Because You Can't Build a Better World Without Breaking Some Eggs
Read by José Andrés

Life lessons from the chef and humanitarian behind World Central Kitchen.

Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063436176 $19.94
Release date: April 22

WALLY LAMB
The River Is Waiting
Reader TBA

An incarcerated man finds ways to survive and atone.

Simon & Schuster Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797188348 $23.09
Release date: May 6

ANTHONY HOROWITZ
Marble Hall Murders
Read by Lesley Manville, Tim McMullin

A new mystery within a mystery from Horowitz. Lesley Manville, who also stars in the Masterpiece adaptation of the series, narrates.

Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063305724 $40.94
Release date: May 13

RON CHERNOW
Mark Twain
Read by Jason Culp

A new biography of the iconic American writer, from the author of *Alexander Hamilton*.

Penguin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593951842 $40.00
Release date: May 13

KEVIN WILSON
Run for the Hills
Read by Marin Ireland

Two half siblings embark on a road trip to find the rest of their siblings. Golden Voice Marin Ireland narrates.

Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD ISBN 9798228469006 $28.99 (also DD)
Release date: May 13

Change THE RECIPE
BECAUSE YOU CAN'T BUILD A BETTER WORLD WITHOUT BREAKING SOME EGGS
JOSÉ ANDRÉS
MARK TWAIN
RON CHERNOW
GRACE LIN
THE GATE, THE GIRL, AND THE DRAGON
CARL HIAASEN
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
A NOVEL
FEVER BEACH
MARSHA
The Joy and Defiance of Marsha P. Johnson

GRACE LIN
The Gate, the Girl, and the Dragon
Read by Mesmi Chu

A stone lion, a girl, and a worm—dragon?—team up to return the Sacred Sphere to where it belongs in this middle-grade audiobook inspired by Chinese mythology.

Hachette Audio   Unabridged   Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668649138 $24.99
Release date: May 13

ASHLEY HERRING BLAKE
Dream On, Ramona Riley
Reader TBA

This one has big Hallmark movie energy—a movie production comes to the small town of Clover Lake, New Hampshire, and one of its stars and a local waitress strike up a romance.

Penguin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217064021 $22.50
Release date: May 13

CARL HIAASEN
Fever Beach
Reader TBA

Hiaasen melds current events with wacky Florida hijinks in his latest.

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217066230 $25.00
Release date: May 13

TOURMALINE
Marsha: The Joy and Defiance of Marsha P. Johnson
Read by Tourmaline

A biography of Black trans activist and LGBTQ+ icon Johnson, who was a key figure in the Stonewall uprising.

Penguin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217019939 $22.50
Release date: May 20

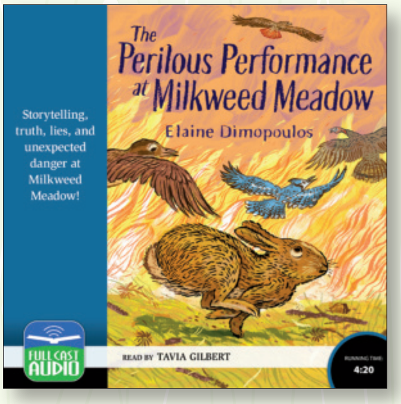
FREDRIK BACKMAN
My Friends
Read by Marin Ireland

In this new novel from favorite Backman, a 25-year-old painting links past and present.

Simon & Schuster Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668131602 $36.74
Release date: May 20

Sign up for our FREE monthly e-newsletters! audiofilemagazine.com/email-subscribe/

Spring into New Audiobooks: Selections

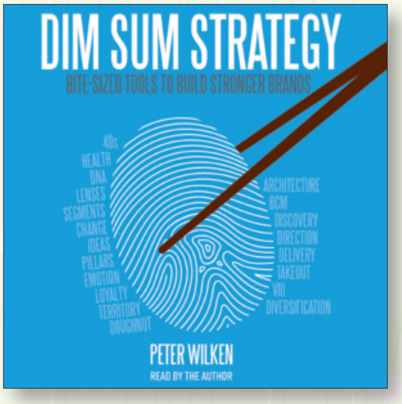

The Perilous Performance at Milkweed Meadow
Elaine Dimopoulos
Storytelling, truth, lies, and unexpected danger at Milkweed Meadow!
FULL CAST AUDIO
READ BY TAVIA GILBERT
4:20

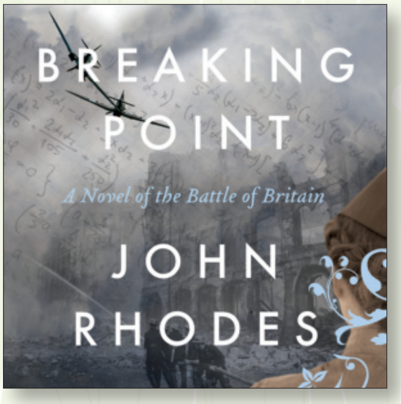
Award-winning narrator Tavia Gilbert returns with her trademark wit and sensitivity to narrate this delightful sequel to the wonderful *Remarkable Rescue at Milkweed Meadow*—a dazzling story of lies and truth, treachery and betrayal, honor and bravery that Booklist calls “a stellar sequel” and Kirkus praises as “whimsical, witty, wise!”

The Perilous Performance at Milkweed Meadow
By Elaine Dimopoulos, read by Tavia Gilbert
Published by FULL CAST AUDIO
Available Now / DD / $11.99

Peter Wilken, the ‘father of Brand DNA,’ offers a curated selection of proven strategic tools, with insights and anecdotes from three decades working with some of the world’s leading brands at the world’s top agencies. It follows the author’s proven Brand Centered Management™ process. Full of real-world examples and Peter’s infectious enthusiasm, if you’re in business, you need this book.

Dim Sum Strategy: Bite-Sized Tools to Build Stronger Brands
By Peter Wilken, read by Peter Wilken
Published by POST HYPNOTIC PRESS INC.
Available Now / DD


DIM SUM STRATEGY
BITE-SIZED TOOLS TO BUILD STRONGER BRANDS
PETER WILKEN
READ BY THE AUTHOR


BREAKING POINT
A Novel of the Battle of Britain
JOHN RHODES

1940, World War II. The Nazis have crushed Europe, and Hitler launches a massive aerial assault with the Luftwaffe against the heavily outnumbered British RAF. The fate of civilization teeters in the balance.

Breaking Point: A Novel of the Battle of Britain
By John Rhodes, read by Evie Butcher
Published by ROUNDEL HOUSE
Available Now / DD

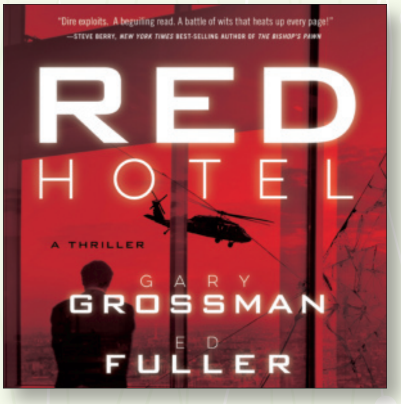
Heroes aren’t just the ones who bring home medals. *Hero Redefined* delves into lesser-known stories of Olympic athletes—and Olympic venues—that challenge the conventional narrative of glory and gold. In riveting personal profiles exploring herculean feats of strength, perseverance, and sportsmanship, award-winning sports journalist Levy offers a new vision of heroism.

Hero Redefined: Profiles of Olympic Athletes Under the Radar
By Doug Levy, read by Mike Zuzel
Published by CLEVER CLEEVER PUBLISHING
Available Now / DD

DOUG LEVY
HERO REDEFINED
PROFILES OF OLYMPIC ATHLETES UNDER THE RADAR

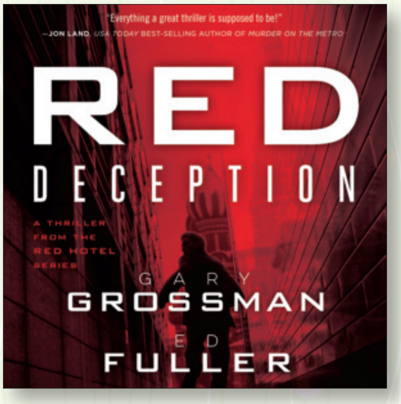
BE READY TO BE CATAPULTED INTO THE REAL WORLD OF GLOBAL INTRIGUE!

from Independent Publishers & Authors


"Dire exploits. A beguiling read. A battle of wits that heats up every page!"
—STEVE BERRY, NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF THE BISHOP'S PAWN
RED
HOTEL
A THRILLER
GARY
GROSSMAN
ED
FULLER

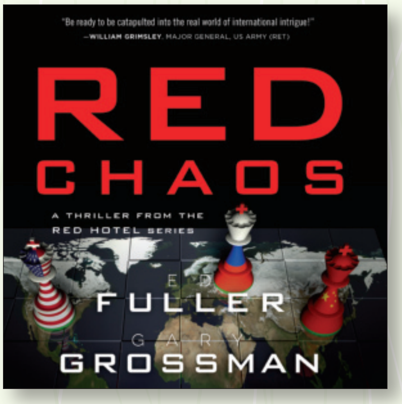
After a deadly bombing at Tokyo's Kensington Royal Hotel, ex-Army intelligence officer turned hotel executive, Dan Reilly, pursues the assassin and uncovers a global conspiracy orchestrated by a superpower. Reilly races against time to unravel the plot against NATO's security, while questioning whether the mysterious and alluring Marnie Babbitt, can be trusted.

Red Hotel: The Red Hotel Series, Book 1
By Gary Grossman & Ed Fuller, read by P.J. Ochlan
Published by THE RED HOTEL LLC
Available at Audible / MP3-CD


"Everything a great thriller is supposed to be!"
—JON LAND, USA TODAY BEST-SELLING AUTHOR OF MURDER ON THE METRO
RED
DECEPTION
A THRILLER FROM THE RED HOTEL SERIES
GARY
GROSSMAN
ED
FULLER

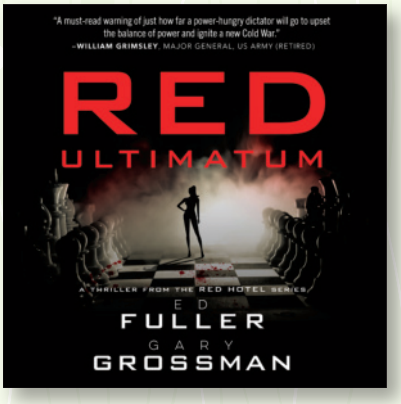
When terrorists target U.S. infrastructure using a leaked State Department report, former Army intelligence officer Dan Reilly uncovers a global, Russian-led conspiracy full of traps and traitors. Can Reilly connect the dots to a hugely explosive geopolitical plot and even save the woman who may be part of it?

Red Deception: The Red Hotel Series, Book 2
By Gary Grossman & Ed Fuller, read by P.J. Ochlan
Published by THE RED HOTEL LLC
Available at Audible


"Be ready to be catapulted into the real world of international intrigue!"
—WILLIAM GRIMSLEY, MAJOR GENERAL, US ARMY (RET)
RED
CHAOS
A THRILLER FROM THE RED HOTEL SERIES
ED
FULLER
GARY
GROSSMAN

Dan Reilly is back in action in a heart-pounding thriller—the stakes can't be higher. As the Arctic ice melts, Russian President Nicolai Gorshkov seeks to control international oil routes to fund a greater Russian Empire. The clock ticks toward disaster on land and under the sea with Reilly at his best.

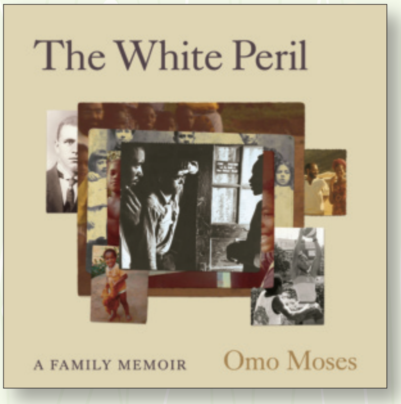
Red Chaos: The Red Hotel Series, Book 3
By Ed Fuller & Gary Grossman, read by P.J. Ochlan
Published by THE RED HOTEL LLC
Available at Audible


"A must-read warning of just how far a power-hungry dictator will go to upset the balance of power and ignite a new Cold War."
—WILLIAM GRIMSLEY, MAJOR GENERAL, US ARMY (RETIRED)
RED
ULTIMATUM
A THRILLER FROM THE RED HOTEL SERIES
ED
FULLER
GARY
GROSSMAN

A former U.S. president's plane crashes, Cairo is attacked, and the Secretary of State is kidnapped. As Russia's President Gorshkov pushes toward Soviet revival, China resists, and Dan Reilly races to unravel a global web of chaos, facing assassins, sleeper spies, and a daring rescue in the Colombian jungle.

Red Ultimatum: The Red Hotel Series, Book 4
By Ed Fuller & Gary Grossman, read by P.J. Ochlan
Published by THE RED HOTEL LLC
Available at Audible

Spring into New Audiobooks: Selections


The White Peril
A FAMILY MEMOIR
Omo Moses

"Searing, honest, vulnerable, profound, and undeniable. I loved it."
—Ben Affleck, actor, writer, filmmaker and CEO, *Artists Equity*

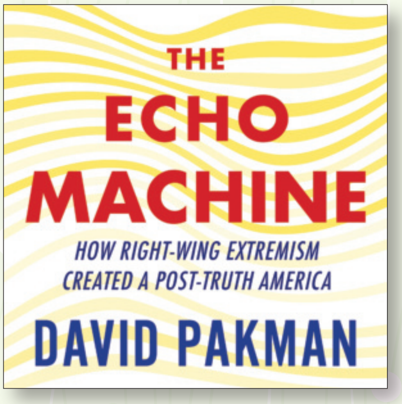
From the son of legendary civil rights organizer Robert P. Moses: a brilliant, unflinching memoir about becoming Black in America that interweaves voices from 3 generations of the Moses family.

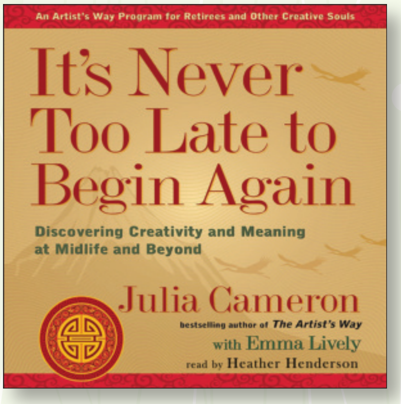
The White Peril: A Family Memoir
By Omo Moses, read by Kevin Free
Published by BEACON PRESS
Available Now / DD

"For anyone who wants to stand up to disinformation and deepen their understanding of politics without getting lost in jargon."
—Brian Tyler Cohen, YouTuber and best-selling author of *Shameless*

How right-wing extremism led to the fall of critical thinking and rise of reactionary politics—and how we can save our democracy.

The Echo Machine: How Right-Wing Extremism Created a Post-Truth America
By David Pakman, read by David Pakman
Published by BEACON PRESS
Available March 25, 2025 / DD


THE ECHO MACHINE
HOW RIGHT-WING EXTREMISM CREATED A POST-TRUTH AMERICA
DAVID PAKMAN


An Artist's Way Program for Retirees and Other Creative Souls
It's Never Too Late to Begin Again
Discovering Creativity and Meaning at Midlife and Beyond
Julia Cameron
bestselling author of The Artist's Way
with Emma Lively
read by Heather Henderson

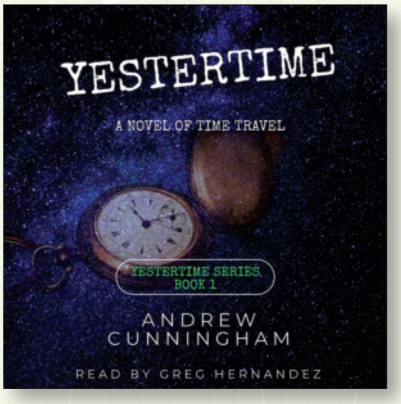
Julia Cameron has inspired millions with her bestseller on creativity, *The Artist's Way*. In *It's Never Too Late To Begin Again*, she speaks to a segment of the population that may have more time to be creative, but is often reluctant or intimidated by the creative process. Retirement can be a rich, fulfilling, and creative time of your life!

It's Never Too Late to Begin Again: Discovering Creativity and Meaning at Midlife and Beyond
By Julia Cameron, read by Heather Henderson
Published by POST HYPNOTIC PRESS INC.
Available Now / DD

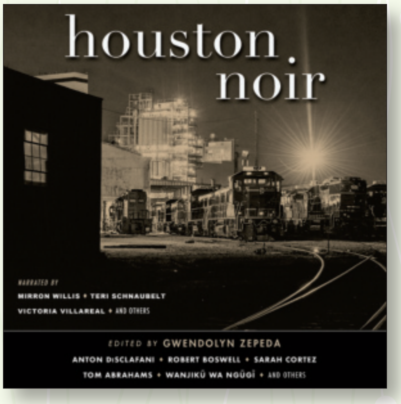
"I'm going to die a hundred years before I was born...."

The handwritten note was in a dusty trunk that sat in a cave untouched for 150 years. When journalist Ray Burton finds the trunk near the Arizona ghost town of Hollow Rock, his life changes in an instant.

Yestertime: A Novel of Time Travel
By Andrew Cunningham, read by Greg Hernandez
Published by ARCNOVELS
Available Now / DD


YESTERTIME
A NOVEL OF TIME TRAVEL
YESTERTIME SERIES BOOK 1
ANDREW CUNNINGHAM
READ BY GREG HERNANDEZ

from Independent Publishers & Authors


houston noir
NARRATED BY MIRRON WILLIS • TERI SCHNAUBELT
VICTORIA VILLAREAL • AND OTHERS
EDITED BY GWENDOLYN ZEPEDA
ANTON DISCLAFANI • ROBERT BOSWELL • SARAH CORTEZ
TOM ABRAHAMS • WANJIKŨ WA NGŨGĨ • AND OTHERS

Brand-new stories by: Tom Abrahams, Robert Boswell, Sarah Cortez, Anton DiSclafani, Stephanie Jaye Evans, Wanjiku Wa Ngugi, Adrienne Perry, Pia Pico, Reyes Ramirez, Icess Fernandez Rojas, Sehba Sarwar, Leslie Contreras Schwartz, Larry Watts, and Deborah D.E.E.P. Mouton.

Houston Noir
By Gwendolyn Zepeda, *Editor*, read by Mirron Willis, Teri Schnaubelt, Victoria Villareal, and Others
Published by GROUND CHERRY PRESS LLC
Available Now / DD

THE BROKEN LANDS
KATE MILFORD
narrated by SAMANTHA TAN

The spine-tingling prequel to Kate Milford's *The Boneshaker*.

Few crossroads compare to the one being formed by the Brooklyn Bridge and the East River, and as the bridge's construction progresses, forces of unimaginable evil seek to bend that power to their advantage. Only two orphans stand in their way.

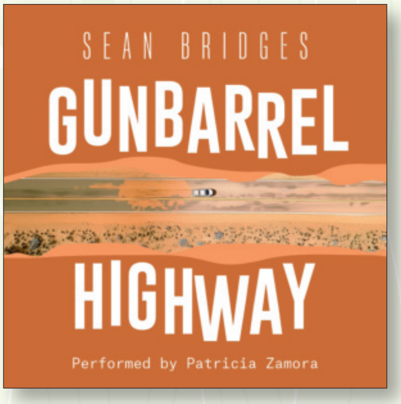
The Broken Lands
By Kate Milford, read by Samantha Tan
Published by GROUND CHERRY PRESS LLC
Available Now / DD

TAXI SHOP
By Ghenet Harvey

Every parent knows that children often get bored with their old toys...until someone else wants them. Listen as Nora and her father go through this very familiar childhood drama as they travel through space in a taxi selling used goods.

Written in beautiful melodic Jamaican Patois.

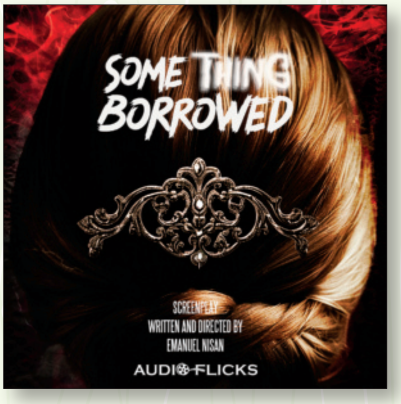
Taxi Shop
By Ghenet Harvey, read by Simone Moore and John-Andrew Morrison
Published by YU-AIRIT AUDIO WORKS
Available now at major retailers / DD


SEAN BRIDGES
GUNBARREL HIGHWAY
Performed by Patricia Zamora

A hit and run becomes hell on earth for Daniel Morrison when a million-dollar bounty is placed on his head. And now his friends; family, along with the entire state of Texas are out to collect the jackpot.

Gunbarrel Highway
By Sean Bridges, read by Patricia Zamora
Published by AUDIBLE PARADE PRODUCTIONS
Available Now / DD

Spring into New Audiobooks: Selections


SOME THING BORROWED
SCREENPLAY
WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY
EMANUEL NISAN
AUDIO FLICKS

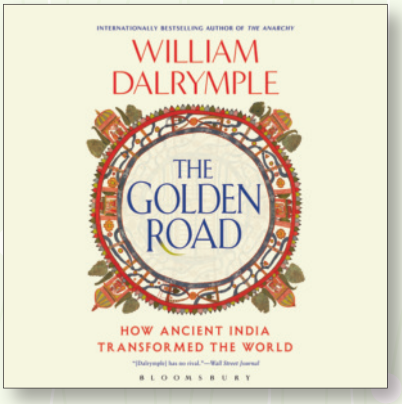
Presenting the first ever Audio Film, *Some Thing Borrowed*.

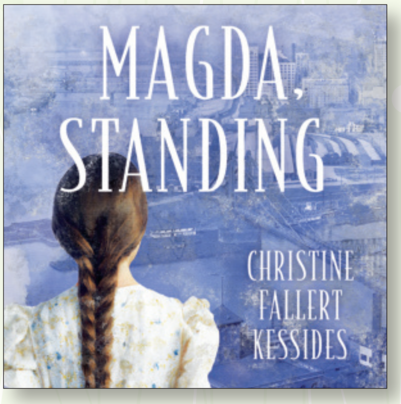
Combining the striking narration of an audiobook with the multicast acting performances normally found in a dramatization and/or audio performance, Some Thing Borrowed is a uniquely immersive, cinematic audio experience in the horror genre that feels like a theatre of the mind, and can only be described as: an Audio Film.

Some Thing Borrowed
By Emanuel Nisan, read by Jeff Dylan Garrett
Published by AUDIO FLICKS
Available Now / Streaming Audio

The internationally bestselling author of *The Anarchy* returns with a sparkling, soaring history of ideas, tracing South Asia's under-recognized role in producing the world as we know it.

The Golden Road
By William Dalrymple, read by William Dalrymple
Published by BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING
Available April 29, 2025 / DD / $27.00


INTERNATIONALLY BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE ANARCHY
WILLIAM DALRYMPLE
THE GOLDEN ROAD
HOW ANCIENT INDIA TRANSFORMED THE WORLD
BLOOMSBURY


MAGDA, STANDING
CHRISTINE FALLERT KESSIDES

A teenager in 1916-19 Pittsburgh surmounts crises in her German immigrant family during WWI and the Spanish flu.

Gold medal from Independent Book Publishers Association (IBPA) for Young Adult audiobook.

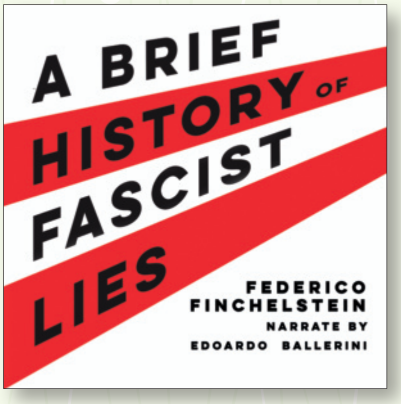
"...great world building and character development." —*LibraryThing*

"...gut-wrenching, beguiling historical novel...." —*TheBookCommentary*

Magda, Standing
By Christine Fallert Kessides, read by Heidi Housh
Published by BOLD STORY PRESS, audiobook produced by ELLIS AUDIOBOOKS
Available Now / DD / For free promo codes, email: ckessides@gmail.com

World-renowned historian Federico Finchelstein explains why fascists regarded simple and often hateful lies as truth and why so many of their followers believed the falsehoods. From Hitler to Mussolini, fascist leaders capitalized on lies as the base of their power and popular sovereignty. "Post-truth" has a long political and intellectual lineage we cannot ignore. Finchelstein's message is urgent and timely

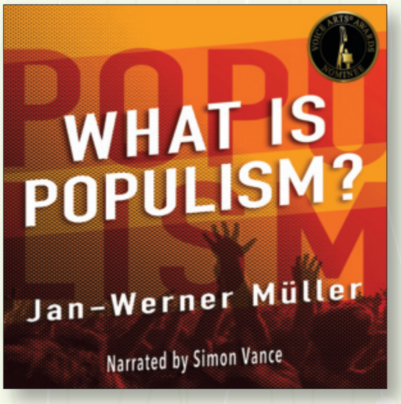
A Brief History of Fascist Lies
By Federico Finchelstein, read by Edoardo Ballerini
Published by POST HYPNOTIC PRESS INC.
Available Now / DD

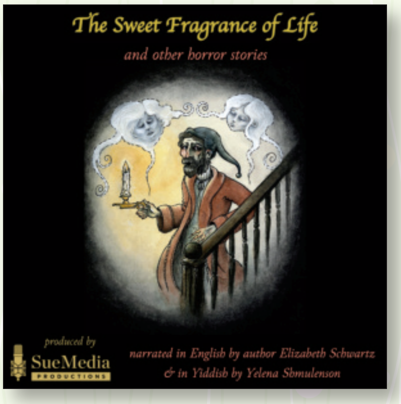

A BRIEF HISTORY OF FASCIST LIES
FEDERICO FINCHELSTEIN
NARRATE BY
EDOARDO BALLERINI

from Independent Publishers & Authors

Trump's 2nd term in office is already chaotic and painful for many worldwide, making Müller's message more timely than ever. Müller recently wrote: "'Trump's victory is far-right populism, not pro-workers populism." The crucial element of populism is the populists' claim that they and only they represent what they usually call "the real people." How do we respond to this? Listen!

What Is Populism?
By Jan-Werner Müller, read by Simon Vance
Published by POST HYPNOTIC PRESS INC.
Available Now / DD


WHAT IS POPULISM?
Jan-Werner Müller
Narrated by Simon Vance


The Sweet Fragrance of Life
and other horror stories
produced by
SueMedia Productions
narrated in English by author Elizabeth Schwartz & in Yiddish by Yelena Shmulenson

"...Mesmerizing stories that wraps up way too soon," (*Kirkus*) by renowned Jewish vocalist/writer Elizabeth Schwartz. In English & Yiddish; a Rabbi commits the gravest sin, evil lurks in a pre-war Germany apartment building, a young girl experiences hell at sea, in tales that explore European Jewish history and culture through a feminist perspective, while offering reflections on racism and misogyny.

The Sweet Fragrance of Life & Other Horror Stories
By Elizabeth Schwartz, read by Elizabeth Schwartz (English)
Yelena Shmulenson (Yiddish)
Published by SUEMEDIA PRODUCTIONS/BLACKSTONE
Available Now / DD, MP3-CD

From American Book Award-winning author Rilla Askew comes the epic, true tale of Lincolnshire martyr Anne Askew. In Henry VIII's England, where religion and politics are ruthlessly entangled, a young woman of Anne's fierce independence, Reformist faith, and connections to Queen Katheryn Parr's court cannot escape official notice, or danger.

Prize for the Fire
By Rilla Askew, read by Ruth Redman
Published by RACONTEURS AUDIO LLP
Available Now / DD

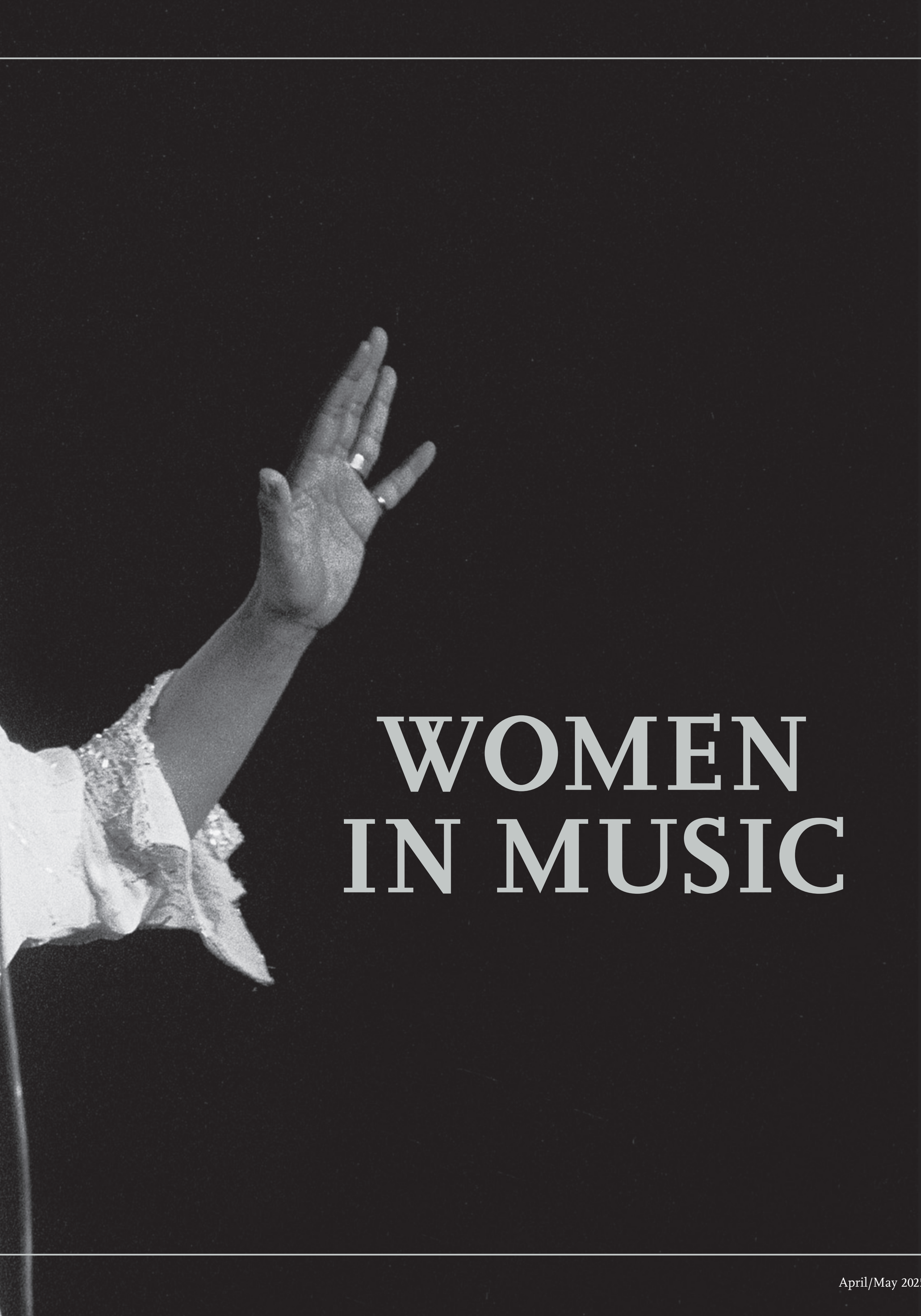
RILLA ASKEW
PRIZE for the FIRE
A NOVEL
Read by RUTH REDMAN

ONE WOMAN'S IMPOSSIBLE QUEST LEADS HER TO THE END OF THE VIKING AGE
FLIGHT of the WREN
Written and Narrated by
WINTER FOX

A *Booklife* Editor's Choice!

At the turn of the first millennium, a young Shaman's apprentice embarks on an impossible quest which will bring her to the end of the Viking Age. Weaving history, magic, battles, and adventure, *Flight of the Wren* has everything you need to escape into the past. The first in a series of five books.

Flight of the Wren
By Winter Fox, read by Winter Fox
Published by WINTER FOX BOOKS
Available Now / DD



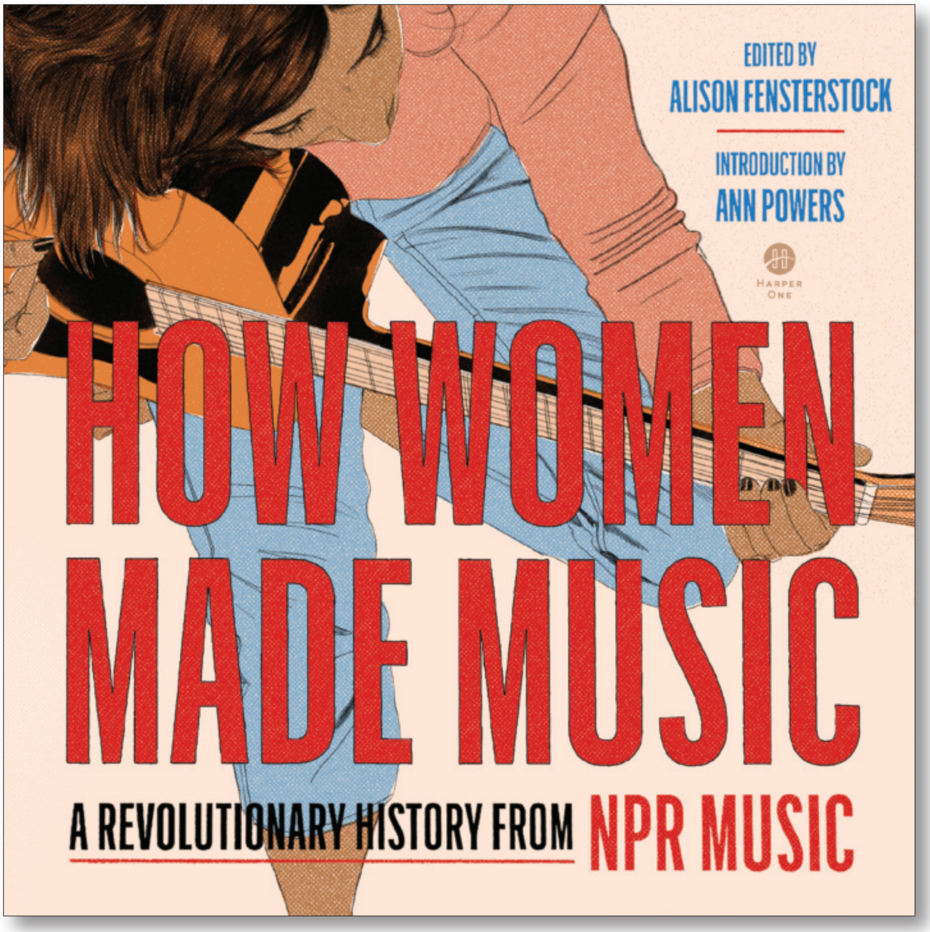
WOMEN IN MUSIC

Roberta Flack photo by Paul Natkin

AudioFile®
AUDIOBOOK CLUB

How Women Made Music

▶ *AudioFile*'s Jo Reed spoke with Ann Powers, critic and correspondent for NPR Music, and editor Alison Fensterstock about collaborating on *How Women Made Music*, *AudioFile*'s spring Audiobook Club pick. A mosaic of essays with archival recordings of the artists, *How Women Made Music: A Revolutionary History from NPR Music* is an Earphones Award winner and was one of *AudioFile*'s Best Audiobooks of 2024. This is an excerpt—hear their full conversation and find more resources at audiofilemagazine.com/audiobook-club



Jo Reed: Let's begin with Turning the Tables, since *How Women Made Music* is drawn in large part from that project and as well as the NPR archives.

Ann Powers: Absolutely. In fact, Alison was there at the birth of Turning the Tables. The project originated from a conversation that Alison and I had with our friend and frequent collaborator, Jill Heimer, who at the time was the director of Public Programs at Lincoln Center. We were in New Orleans at a festival and had seen the guitarist, Barbara Lynn, play an amazing rip-roaring set, and we're thinking about her as a pioneer of electric guitar. I mean, I think when we saw her play, she was maybe in her seventies, and we just started talking about how she's never on those lists of the greatest guitarists of all time. And that led to a larger conversation about how women are often either excluded from these kinds of lists of musical greats or kind of banished to the mid area. Maybe Joni Mitchell would be number seven. Aretha Franklin would be number five on a list, never number one. And we just generally continued this conversation for a couple of years about how to think differently about music history through the lens of women artists, women at all levels participating in music culture. And that led us to create this platform called Turning the Tables. And over the course of several years we did shows, we published a lot of material on the web, we had a podcast, we made videos, all intended to celebrate, honor, and expose people to artists who were underrepresented, overlooked, hidden in plain sight. And what we discovered in doing that is that telling the story of popular music through the stories of women changes how we think about popular music entirely.

JR: Alison, what was the impetus for the book and the audiobook?

Alison Fensterstock: This was an idea that came from NPR Music. I think at the time when the book turned into an idea, it'd been five years of Turning the Tables material, and it went all over the place. It started with a list of the 150 greatest albums by women in music. Then there was a series of essays about pre-album-era originators of blues and gospel and jazz and early country. And then there was sort of a future-gazing series where all of these critics and reporters sort of opined and crystal-ball gazed about which artists that were just emerging at that time would come to be the most influential in the future.

And then it seemed like a natural idea to compile it into a book. And we also had access to this wonderful treasure trove, which was the NPR archive itself from the whole entity going back to its founding in the early seventies. And so we had these amazing broadcast interviews with artists from different times in their career that we were also able to mine and use and put beside these critical takes and these scholarly explorations that were looking back at legacies of

Author Alison Fensterstock

Author Ann Powers

Alison Fensterstock photo courtesy of the author, Ann Powers photo by Emily Allen Photography

women in music. So we also had the artists' own voices, and that was a really crucial part of the audiobook. Just having a recording of Patty Smith in 1976 or Tracy Chapman in 1989, and they're talking to each other across time, they're talking to the critics, and the critics are responding to them. I think it creates this really dynamic call and response experience, especially in the audiobook where the real voices are there.

JR: What I find so interesting about the project and now the book are the writers and the way they write about the musicians.

AP: One of the main goals of Turning the Tables was to be a multi-layered project. And the way we understand music history, it's one thing to approach the subject of women in music and musicians who are not men. It's another to engage those people who are actually creating the histories and creating new kinds of criticism, new kinds of reporting, new kinds of audio, radio pieces and video pieces. And it was very important to me as someone who's devoted my life to music writing to highlight this incredible community and in fact, web of communities of scholars, writers, public radio producers and editors and hosts, and artists, all of whom play a role in reshaping music history. Every year of Turning the Tables focused on a different community of writers as well as artists. So there's this incredible community of thinkers out there who are just changing the way we think about everything to do with music

JR: Let's talk about the book structure, because it's not chronological, but organized thematically, with headings like Tradition Bearers and Breakers, Warriors, Teenage Kicks, Live Storytellers, Empaths.

AF: Yeah, I like to think that was almost a way of tricking the reader, or the listener in the audiobook's case, to not be able to skip to what they knew would be their favorite parts. To not buy the book and say, well, I really only want to read about country and R&B, or I don't really like anything recorded after 1975. But the way this book is organized, it forces you to look at all these artists placed next to each other and imagine the connections in different ways, like not chronology and not genre, although there certainly is some of that. There are some great pieces, especially in those broadcast archive interviews, where musicians talk about artists that they admire or who influenced them. And that's one of my favorite parts.

JR: Alison, can you talk a little bit about how you put the audiobook together? Because of course, when we're listening to the book, we actually hear these fabulous voices.

AF: I gave Harper Audio all of the audio that I had in my files, and I did all the sequencing, which is intended to do that call and response that I was talking about, to hear a real artist's voice and then maybe hear a critic being read by a voice actor saying something that elaborates on it or goes more in depth on it. Like Ann's wonderful deep dive on Roberta Flack, who we just lost, which is a tour de force that really just explores the depth of her virtuosity and her genius and her meaning. And then you have Roberta's voice pop right in with a few comments, and it punctuates it in this amazing way when you're listening to it that I think is different than reading it. ■

AUDIOFILE AUDIOBOOK CLUB
audiofilemagazine.com/audiobook-club
podcast • videos • listen-alikes • playlists
suggested activities • and more!

Spotlight: Women in Music

Cher
Be My Baby
A Memoir
Gold Dust Woman
The Biography of
Stevie Nicks
Stephen Davis
Heartbreak is the National Anthem
How Taylor Swift Reinvented Pop Music
My Name Is
Barbra
Barbra Streisand
Read by the Author
Unlikely Angel
The Songs of
Dolly Pa
Lydia R. Ham
Read by Janet
More Myself
A Journey
Alicia Keys
Aretha Franklin
Respect
David Ritz
Unabridged
Madonna
A Rebel Life
Mary Gabriel
Author of Ninth Street Women
Odetta
A Life in Music and Protest
Ian Zack
Narrated by Rosa Howard
We'll Make It
Margo Price

BE MY BABY: A MEMOIR
Ronnie Spector, Vince Waldron, read by Rosie Perez

Macmillan Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

BITTER CROP: The Heartache and Triumph of Billie Holiday's Last Year
Paul Alexander, read by Maya Days

Random House Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

CHER: The Memoir, Part 1
Cher, read by Cher, Stephanie J. Block

Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

GOLD DUST WOMAN: A Biography of Stevie Nicks
Stephen Davis, read by Christina Delaine

HighBridge Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

HEARTBREAK IS THE NATIONAL ANTHEM: How Taylor Swift Reinvented Pop Music
Rob Sheffield, read by Rob Sheffield
Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

MADONNA: A Rebel Life
Mary Gabriel, read by Elise Arsenault

Hachette Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

MAYBE WE'LL MAKE IT
Margo Price, read by Margo Price

Dreamscape Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

MORE MYSELF: A Journey
Alicia Keys, read by Alicia Keys, America Ferrera, Bono, Clive Davis, Craig Cook, DJ Walton, Jay-Z, Krucial, Leigh Blake, Michelle Obama, Oprah Winfrey, Swizz Beats, Terri Augelo

Macmillan Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, DD

MY NAME IS BARBRA
Barbra Streisand, read by Barbra Streisand

Penguin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD
2025 Audie Award Winner

NO WALLS AND THE RECURRING DREAM: A Memoir
Ani DiFranco, read by Ani DiFranco

Penguin Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

ODETTA: A Life in Music and Protest
Ian Zack, read by Rosa Howard

Beacon Press   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

PATTI SMITH AT THE MINETTA LANE: Words and Music
Patti Smith, read by Patti Smith

Audible, Inc.   Audio Program
Trade Ed.: DD

RESPECT: The Life of Aretha Franklin
David Ritz, read by Brad Raymond

Hachette Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

TRAVELING: On the Path of Joni Mitchell
Ann Powers, read by Hillary Huber

Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

UNLIKELY ANGEL: The Songs of Dolly Parton
Lydia R. Hamessley, Steve Buckingham [Fore.], read by Janet Metzger

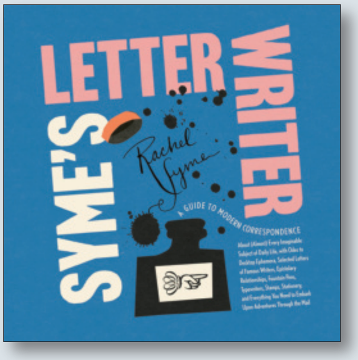
Tantor Media   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

ONE DAY, EVERYONE WILL HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST THIS
Omar El Akkad
Read by Omar El Akkad

In this searing indictment of U.S. imperialism, journalist Omar El Akkad exposes the rot at the heart of American liberalism and the ugly truth that undergirds American democracy: It's predicated on the subjugation of marginalized people around the globe. El Akkad focuses on the genocide in Gaza but also draws on his career as a journalist in the post 9/11 years and his experiences as an Arab immigrant in the U.S. and Canada. His prose is clear sighted and unflinching; his narration is fiery and direct. His voice is sometimes steely but softens when he's speaking about the people and communities he loves. El Akkad implicates all of us and asks us to take courageous action. There is incredible power in hearing this book read aloud. *L.S.*

Random House Audio 5.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217074075 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217074082 $66.50

SYME'S LETTER WRITER
Rachel Syme
Read by Rachel Syme, Rebecca Bact



Rachel Syme is delightful company. Upbeat, witty, informative, and persuasive, her guide to all things epistolary entertains while convincing listeners that letters (preferably hand-scrawled) are some of the best things in life. Narrating in a cheerful, perky, and crisply enunciated tone, and introduced by romantic music, Syme explores it all: letter-writing history, tales of famous letter writers, how to write a letter or postcard, desktop ephemera, lists of possible correspondence topics, how to find a pen pal, how to write bitchy letters. (Jane Austen excelled, evidently.) A downloadable pdf contains bonus material, including letter-writing playlists. Throughout, Syme is funny and lighthearted, as well as heartfelt and sincere. The final chapter, an audio-exclusive conversation with Syme's own pen pal, Rebecca Bact, is perfect inspiration for finding an epistolary chum. *A.C.S.*

Random House Audio 6.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217082964 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217082971 $57.00

Upbeat, witty, informative, and persuasive.

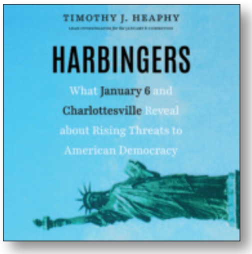
FRAMED: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions
John Grisham, Jim McCloskey
Read by Michael Beck, John Grisham, Jim McCloskey [Preface]

There's a presumed sense of fairness in our justice system. But Michael Beck's harrowing performances of 10 true stories of devastating injustices reveal the error of that presumption. A neighbor is falsely accused of murdering a woman on the same day that his wife has major surgery. Four Navy sailors are pushed into falsely confessing to a vicious crime in Norfolk. A man goes to prison for a heinous crime another man admits to committing. In each of these accounts, John Grisham and Jim McCloskey—who lend their voices to research-backed intros—interrogate the negligence, corruption, and narrow-mindedness that lead to wrongful convictions. Beck's narration treats each story, and its victim, with sincerity and care. It's a much-needed investigation of investigations gone horribly wrong. *A.A.H.*

Random House Audio 14 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593866801 $25.00

HARBINGERS: What January 6 and Charlottesville Reveal About Rising Threats to American Democracy
Timothy J. Heaphy
Read by Matt Godfrey

Crisp and to the point, Matt Godfrey delivers this timely audiobook in a tone of urgency and optimism. Heaphy led the legal team charged with investigating the Unite the Right riots in Charlottesville, Virginia, in 2017 and the January 6 riot in Washington, DC, in 2021. Listeners hear a concise overview of those events with well-organized details that illuminate how these tragic events unfolded. Godfrey straightforwardly delivers the author's analysis of how the public was deliberately misinformed, providing fuel to the riots. Godfrey conveys this work in a steady tone that reflects Heaphy's belief in the power of democracy, even in times like these. He skillfully delivers the powerful message that doing the right thing and national service are the key drivers of a healthy democracy. *S.P.C.*


TIMOTHY J. HEAPHY
HARBINGERS
What January 6 and Charlottesville Reveal about Rising Threats to American Democracy

Dreamscape 9 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781666683370 $34.99

VALLEY SO LOW: One Lawyer's Fight for Justice in the Wake of America's Great Coal Catastrophe
Jared Sullivan
Read by Lee Osorio, Jared Sullivan [Note]

The story of workers who are fighting for a settlement to pay their medical bills after exposure to coal ash begins with a phone call. Lee Osorio captures the urgency that sent a worker out to clean up a "black wave" of toxic slurry after a partial dike collapse. Osorio increases the tension as revelations spring from a lawyer's study of coal ash's effects. He slows down to emphasize the workers' health concerns and captures the tension felt by the lawyer and his wife as they worry about when the settlement will take place. Even a "document dump" that sends lawyers sifting through piles of papers sounds dramatic. When the case finally reaches court, Osorio creates excitement over moments of triumph. *J.A.S.*

Random House Audio 12.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593914786 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593914793 $95.00

THE BEST AMERICAN ESSAYS 2024

Wesley Morris,
Kim Dana Kupperman [Eds.]
Read by Emily Rankin, Cary Hite, Jeanette Illidge, Robert Fass, Nancy Wu

This outstanding audio collection begins with a thought-provoking introduction by editor Wesley Morris in which he discusses the struggle over what individuals and societies can think. The narrators take turns delivering the 22 works originally featured in publications such as *Harper's Magazine*, *The Atlantic*, and *The New Yorker*. One standout is "Jenisha from Kentucky." Jeanette Illidge narrates with plenty of emotion as the main character struggles to grow up with a drug-addicted mother and establish a career in the big city. Another memorable work is "The Ones We Sent Away," a heartfelt piece sensitively delivered by Emily Rankin about the author's aunt who was sent away to a group home in childhood and the effects of the institutionalization of disabled people. *S.E.G.*

Harper Audio 16.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063351578 $26.99

WARHOL AFTER WARHOL: Secrets, Lies & Corruption in the Art World

Richard Dorment
Read by Peter Noble

Warhol
After
Warhol
Secrets,
Lies,
& Corruption
in the
Art World
Richard Dorment
READ BY PETER NOBLE
rb media

Narrator Peter Noble's clear voice, rich timbre, and impeccable pacing bring to life the complex and often bizarre world of art authentication. It begins with art collector Joe Simon's call to longtime art critic Richard Dorment in 2003, requesting assistance in getting a detailed answer about why the Andy Warhol Art Authentication Board declared two works in his collection to be fakes. The runaround and accusations Simon suffered only fueled his single-minded mission. The decade-long journey is a revealing look at the art world, specifically Warhol's silk-screening process and the elusive concept of authenticity with an artist who specialized in mass production. Noble's subtle delivery creates a winning portrait of an art saga that dissects the trifecta of influence, affluence, and creativity. *A.L.C.*

Tantor Media 8 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798855547801 $17.49

A CENTURY OF TOMORROWS: How Imagining the Future Shapes the Present

Glenn Adamson
Read by Glenn Adamson

Colorful content, excellent narration, and fresh subject matter make this audiobook a standout. Author Glenn Adamson delivers an even, well-timed narration that includes some flourishes. The audiobook surveys future forecasters, such as Buckminster Fuller, Sun Ra, Shulamith Firestone, Arthur C. Clarke, H.G. Wells, Werner von Braun, the Rand Corporation, Marcus Garvey, and the Native American mystic Wovoka. According to Adamson, the future is "a generative setting for the cultural imagination . . ." For example, Black futurologists imagined an African diaspora, feminists imagined a world in which men were imprisoned in zoos, and technologists predicted Singularity, a machine world without humans. Or perhaps, as David Byrne sings, the future will simply be the "same as it ever was." *R.W.S.*

Bloomsbury Publishing 11.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781639730247 $24.00

FOOD FOR THOUGHT: Essays and Ruminations

Alton Brown
Read by Alton Brown

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
ALTON
BROWN
ESSAYS &
RUMINATIONS
FOOD FOR THOUGHT
READ BY THE AUTHOR

Add "outstanding audiobook narrator" to Brown's impressive resumé. He is, after all, a Food Network personality, a cookbook author, and an avid food science researcher. Given his long-running gigs on "Iron Chef" and "Good Eats," along with his work as a pitchman for GE, it's no surprise that he performs his "essays and ruminations" smoothly and wittily. His range of interests is expansive: blue crab (eat the soft-shell variety), martinis (be wary of ice), Japanese cuisine (seek it out), and more. But it's his funny and quirky opinions—men should dress like Bond villains, kitchen tables must be wood, utensils need to multitask—that stay with the listener. A master of the bon mot, he tells stories creatively with an excellent pace and tone. *A.D.M.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 7 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668124635 $19.99

> *Brown performs his "essays and ruminations" smoothly and wittily.*

HOW TO FEED THE WORLD: The History and Future of Food

Vaclav Smil
Read by Joe Jameson

Joe Jameson delivers an impressive performance of this comprehensive text. His pace and cadence work well with this fact-filled audiobook; even his intelligent-sounding British accent effectively conveys Smil's expertise on the state of the world's food supply. Smil, an energy expert, has long been a student of the planet's food. He says, "Numbers are the antidote to wishful thinking," and he uses quantitative means to arrive at his recommendations. He argues astonishingly that with some improvements in diet choices, technology, and wise use of how and where we grow crops, the planet may be able to feed its projected 10 billion inhabitants in 2050. His data-driven focus balances energy needs and real-world preferences for meat with the issues surrounding land use and climate change. *A.D.M.*

Penguin Audio 7.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217064274 $20.00

UNCOVERING DINOSAUR BEHAVIOR:
What They Did and How We Know
David Hone
Read by Graham Mack

Many listeners with a lifelong curiosity about the massive to miniscule dinosaur species who roamed Earth millions of years ago will find this audiobook immensely fascinating. British narrator Graham Mack's thoughtfully engaged performance helps listeners absorb Hone's concise yet thorough research review on dinosaur behavior. With clear diction, Mack presents the challenges paleontologists and other specialists face in using fossilized remains to identify and understand how these "fearfully great lizards" fed, mated, socialized, and experienced their world. While some dinosaur behavior will remain a mystery without sufficient supporting evidence or ways to test theories or observe the creatures in action, Mack captures Hone's sense of eager anticipation as worldwide research continues unearthing more data. *J.R.T.*

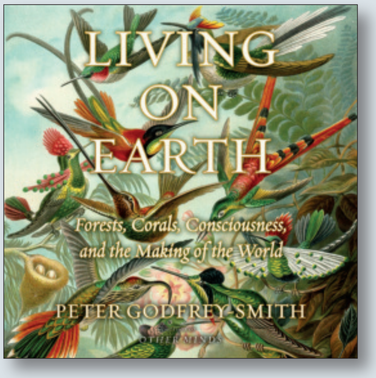
HighBridge Audio 5.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781696616867 $17.49

THE CONTROL OF NATURE
John McPhee
Read by Grover Gardner

Decades after its publication, this audiobook by John McPhee retains its relevance. The author's poetic writing style—rendered equally poetically by narrator Grover Gardner—is inviting. The book covers three regions and humanity's attempts to control them—the lower Mississippi River, mountains outside Los Angeles, and an Icelandic volcano. McPhee's straightforward sentence structures translate well to audio, as does his use of metaphor, which renders complex subjects in terms listeners can understand and appreciate. Gardner's pace also makes it easier for listeners to follow technical discussions. The author's message is that humanity has no choice but to try to control natural forces, but we should also strive harder to live as part of nature. *R.C.G.*

Tantor Media 10 hrs. Unabridged
Trade: ISBN 9798855596069 $19.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798855596076 $47.95

LIVING ON EARTH:
Forests, Corals, Consciousness, and the Making of the World
Peter Godfrey-Smith
Read by Peter Godfrey-Smith, Mitch Riley



Australian philosopher of science Peter Godfrey-Smith narrates this history of life on Earth from its beginnings to the present, going on to explore possibilities for the directions life may take in the future. In a light Australian accent, Godfrey-Smith presents theories of evolution, mind, and connectedness and consciousness. His narration is down-to-earth and comfortable yet thought-provoking. Some intriguing topics discussed include the philosophy of living things and their consciousness, and ethics with animals relating to factory farming and animal experimentation. Godfrey-Smith ponders cause versus result and is both thoroughly explicative and instructive. The production is embellished with thoughtful music at the beginning and end. *S.E.G.*

Macmillan Audio 10 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250353900 $26.99

> *Godfrey-Smith's narration is down-to-earth and comfortable yet thought-provoking.*

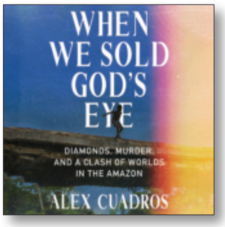
A LIFE IN THE GARDEN:
Tales and Tips for Growing Food in Every Season
Barbara Damrosch
Read by Marni Penning

Don't assume a gardening book won't translate well to audio. Narrator Marni Penning's upbeat pacing and enthusiastic tone make this listening experience as relaxing as being surrounded by blooming flowers. The author, an expert gardener and prolific writer of instructional books on producing your own food, provides an intimate view of her relationship with growing plants. Listeners come to know Damrosch personally as she describes how she pursued her life's passion and abandoned conventional gardening practices. Part memoir, part how-to manual, the production is a delightfully narrated mix of life lessons, humorous observations, and tips that range from soil to tools to forging a unique career path. Anyone involved in gardening will find this an immensely enjoyable and highly applicable listen. *J.T.*

Hachette Audio 12.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668643518 $31.99

WHEN WE SOLD GOD'S EYE:
Diamonds, Murder and a Clash of Worlds in the Amazon
Alex Cuadros
Read by Alex Cuadros

Alex Cuadros spent six years investigating the controversy at the heart of this audiobook, and his passion for the story comes through in both his text and his narration. In a voice that is youthful and warm, Cuadros takes the listener into the Amazon rainforest, where the Indigenous Cinta Larga people have endured a decades-long struggle against illegal diamond mining that led to the massacre of 29 prospectors in 2004. Cuadros has obviously earned the trust of many of the Cinta Larga at the heart of the controversy, and he quotes them at length, recounting dialogue respectfully and without adornment. This is extraordinary journalism, well written and well told. *D.B.*

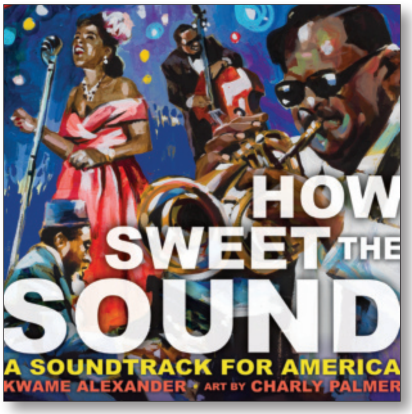


Hachette Audio 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781549126987 $27.99

> *"Kwame Alexander's exceptional writing drew me effortlessly into the rhythmic flow of this book. Narrating this story of Black music in America made me feel like I was truly part of the band."*
> —Narrator Karen Murray

HOW SWEET THE SOUND

Kwame Alexander
Read by Karen Murray

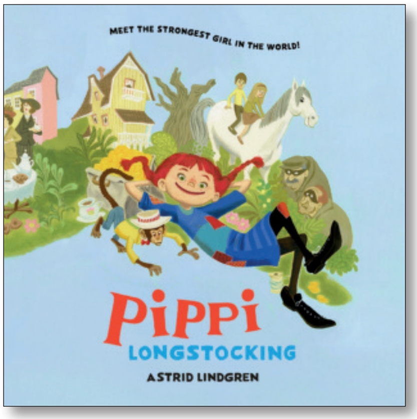


Every second of this dynamic production—from the bouncing notes of the opening theme to the last snapped finger—creates a musical soundscape. Narrator Karen Murray's sweet and steady tones guide the listener through a history of Black music told in rolling lines of poetry. Murray moves seamlessly from the talking drums of Africa through the origins of the blues, jazz, funk, and soul, and forward to the birth of hip-hop and rap, with many stops in between. The background accompaniment changes with each verse to reflect the topic. Instruments and vocals intertwine and dance together while keeping the narration front and center. The glossary ("musical notes") is straightforward but still impactful, offering the listener resources through which to enjoy the story even more. *N.M.*

Hachette Audio 47 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668647349 $4.99

PIPPI LONGSTOCKING

Astrid Lindgren, Susan Beard [Trans.]
Read by Sutton Foster



First-time listeners, as well as those who once treasured this story, will be thrilled by Sutton Foster's character portrayals. Central to this audiobook's success is Foster's portrayal of Pippi, the quirky 9-year-old who moves in next door to Tommy and Annika with a horse, a monkey, no parents, and wild stories. Foster's narration crackles with dynamic vibrancy when it comes to Pippi's dialogue. She depicts the wonder, confusion, and doubt of Pippi's friends and the consternation of adults whose authority Pippi challenges. But, as it should be, nothing and no one compares to the power and brash audacity of Pippi. Foster shows her to be the strongest girl in the world in deed, thought, and storytelling prowess. *S.W.*

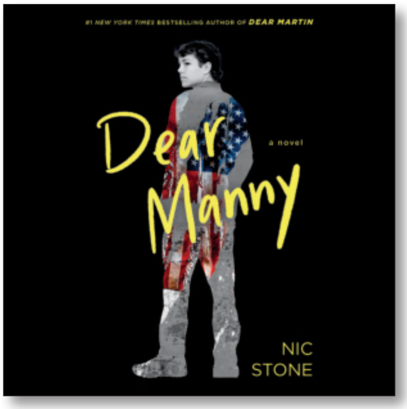
Listening Library 2.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593946244 $14.00

Narrator Sutton Foster

Karen Murray photo by D'Ambrose Boyd

> *“Dear Manny’s protagonist makes it clear that becoming a better person isn’t a straight line. It was surprising and refreshing to perform a character who asks that kind of understanding from the listener.”*
> —Narrator James Fouhey

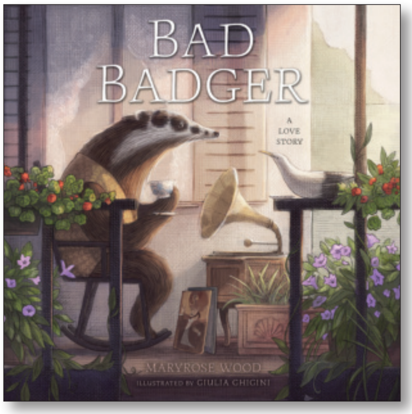
DEAR MANNY:
Dear Martin, Book 3
Nic Stone
Read by James Fouhey, Nic Stone


#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF DEAR MARTIN
Dear Manny
a novel
NIC STONE

Stone’s final entry in the Dear Martin trilogy is made more powerful with this compelling performance by James Fouhey. Jared’s plan to run for junior class president hits a bump when a Black transfer student named Dylan adds her name to the slate. Fouhey captures Jared’s conflict over his white privilege, which lingers after the death of his best friend, Manny. It shows up in letters written to Manny and in Jared’s growing affection for Dylan. Fouhey delivers Jared’s range of emotions in scenes relating to a smear campaign lodged against him, his tension during a school debate, his reaction to his father’s disappointment in him, and an accusation of theft against Dylan. Stone adds clarity by inserting comments in three places within the production. *S.D.B.*

Listening Library 4.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217067725 $25.00

BAD BADGER:
Bad Badger, Book 1
Maryrose Wood
Read by Chris Devon



English narrator Chris Devon provides a warm background while bringing to life the characters in this simple and compelling tale of friendship. While Septimus loves listening to opera in his cottage by the sea, he knows that he’s a bad badger—and even questions whether he’s a badger at all. For these reasons, he’s both relieved and happy when a gull begins visiting him. The possibility of an actual friend is thrilling. However, Gully’s disappearance opens up many questions and propels Septimus to look for answers. Devon provides character to the one-word seagull and infuses Septimus with emotions ranging from anxiety to joy. Listeners will appreciate this story of a developing friendship and the realistic bumps along the way. *E.J.F.*

Dreamscape 2.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781666688344 $25.19

> *“As a proud dad to two growing boys, it’s a joy to watch them learn the value of friendship.* Bad Badger *is the most charming and moving take on friendship I’ve ever read.”*
> —Narrator Chris Devon

James Fouhey photo by Jeremy Folmer

Talking with Author Kyle Lukoff & Narrator Will Malloy

By Emily E. Connelly

AudioFile **spoke with author Kyle Lukoff and narrator Will Malloy about their friendship and their collaboration on the audiobook of Lukoff's newest novel for middle-grade listeners, *A World Worth Saving*.**

AudioFile: Kyle, why were you hoping to have Will narrate this audiobook? Can you tell us a bit about how you became friends?

Kyle Lukoff: Will and I first met when he was still a high school student. I was visiting to present on my picture book *When Aidan Became a Brother*, and we ended up chatting during the book fair/signing portion of the day. I was impressed by how smart and well-adjusted he seemed, glad to see how focused he was on an acting career, and it was also fun to see what cultural references we had in common despite being from such different generations. He stayed in touch after that day, and once he was a college student we slowly started becoming friends.

I decided I wanted Will to audition for the role after seeing him play the character of Max in Taylor Mac's play *Hir*. He was amazing in that role, which is a very complex one that requires a lot of careful work to make sure the character doesn't come off as a one-note, annoying caricature, and Will nailed it. I knew we needed to cast a transmasculine narrator, ideally someone younger, and Will fit the bill perfectly, with a very impressive audition.

AF: Will, have you recorded audiobooks or done other work in audio before?

Will Malloy: This was the very first audiobook that I have recorded! I do have some experience working in audio, in two adjacent but different contexts. I am the Senior Reporter for "Possibly," a sustainability and environmental science podcast that airs weekly on The Public's Radio in Rhode Island and elsewhere on radio stations across the country. For that job, I do everything from recording interviews with scientists to recording scripts to mixing episodes. Also, I have some experience as a Foley artist and actor—I did the live sound effects for a play at the Gamm Theater. Doing an audiobook was new for me, but it allowed me to bring together my work as an actor and in the booth! I think my radio experience helped a lot with the technical side—I tried to read in a way that would be easy to edit because I know what it's like to be on the other side. That let me focus on the most important part of the job at hand: telling A's story.

AF: How did you prepare for recording this particular audiobook?

WM: I was very fortunate because Kyle had sent me an early draft of the book long before there was talk of an audiobook (at least talk that I knew of!). I had read the story and loved it, so as soon as I was offered the role, I knew the story, but I also knew that I had my work cut out for me! Of course, I read the book again, but it was a totally different experience when I was reading it with the intention of preparing to read it aloud. I really wanted to know who these people were, so I called Kyle to refine my understanding and interpretation of each of the characters and the project of the story overall. A, his friends, his rabbi, his family—these people are so rich and so different from each other. I think knowing Kyle personally helped me prepare, too. He has a wonderful and biting and often dry sense of humor that you can really hear when you're reading and I wanted that sound to come through.

AF: What part of A's story was the most joyful to write? And to narrate? What about the most challenging?

KL: The most joyful parts of this book for me are the ones where A gets to hang out with trans kids his own age, outside the control of their parents. It was so fun to see him bounce off of all these different people, and for them to get to be just teenagers hanging out instead of terrified, vulnerable kids running away from unsafe situations. My favorite thing about being trans is get-

Author Kyle Lukoff

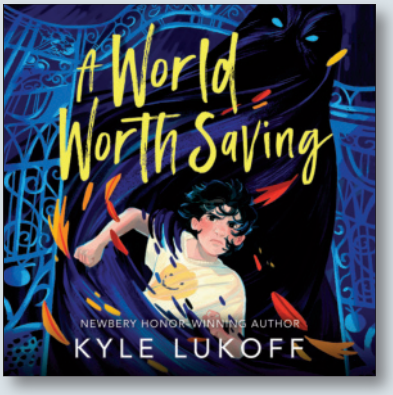
Kyle Lukoff photo by Marvin Joseph, Will Malloy photo by Nile Hawver

ting to know and love other trans people, and I hope that shines through.

WM: I agree with Kyle that the parts where A is hanging out with his friends are so full of life and joy. The story also prominently features a golem, and I really loved reading those scenes. I thought of myself as reading in A's voice the whole time as the story is told from his point of view. Even when there are other characters speaking, I tried to imagine how to speak as those people, but filtered through A's sound, which was a fun challenge.

The book also features a good amount of Hebrew and Yiddish, which aren't languages I speak. Luckily, my roommate and friend wants to be a rabbi, so he was kind enough to sit down with me and help me figure out how to pronounce the prayers, phrases, and words I didn't know yet. I made a bunch of voice memos on my phone of him and me and often Kyle saying those phrases, which was a huge help to me in the booth! So if you catch any mispronunciations in the book, you can blame those guys, not me . . . .

A WORLD WORTH SAVING
Kyle Lukoff
Read by Will Malloy, Kyle Lukoff



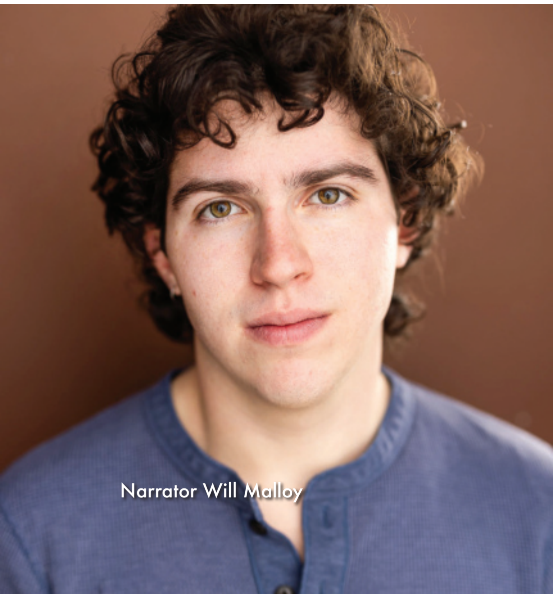
Will Malloy performs this moving fantasy audiobook with skill and care. A's parents have been dragging him to painful group conversion therapy meetings ever since he came out as trans. Ironically, it's the only place A has been able to befriend other trans kids. Then his friend Yarrow is taken away for intensive "treatment," and A discovers demons are behind the abduction—and a whole conspiracy of anti-trans attacks. Malloy infuses his voice with fear and determination as A and his friend Sal flee, and they face down saving their friend on their own. An unusual golem, other unhoused queer kids, and A's rabbi all provide support and guidance. This powerful story steeped in Jewish folklore is about coming together to fight for a better world. *E.E.C.*

Listening Library 8.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 10+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593945872 $25.00

Malloy performs this moving fantasy audiobook with skill and care.

AF: Kyle, your story emphasizes the importance of working together with community, instead of fighting alone as a "chosen one." What pushed you to write it that way?

KL: My political beliefs, frankly. I am against anything that prizes self-sufficiency over interdependence, and didn't want to write a story about a Most Special Boy who saved the world because that is never how it happens.


Narrator Will Malloy

AF: What advice do you have for young people wanting to write their own stories?

KL: Do it! There will never be a better time. Which does not mean that now is a good time, but it is the time we are living in, which means that it is the time you have. Don't wait for a better time because you might never find it.

AF: Is there anything else you would like to share with us about *A World Worth Saving*?

KL: This is the hardest book that I've written so far. And while I wish it weren't so "timely," I do think it ironic that it is a book I deeply want people to read, and the full force of the federal government has made it clear that they want to keep it out of the hands of its most appropriate audience.

WM: While I love A very much and feel very connected to his story in certain ways, I want to be clear that his story and mine are not synonymous. I think it's easy to conflate the author's life or the actor's life with the character's life, especially when all three of us are trans men—or trans boys, I suppose (no spoilers about whether or not A becomes a bar mitzvah in this book!). Like A, I was a trans teenager, but our experiences of being trans teens were very, very different. There are many parts of A that I understand better because of that, but there are even other characters that Kyle has written to whom I feel more similar! It is my honor to help breathe life into this story, but my presence in it is as an interpreter and visitor to A's world, which I can only hope that I did with care and truthfulness. ■

HOUSE OF ELEPHANTS: Witchlings, Book 3

Claribel A. Ortega
Read by Cyrina Fiallo

The third book in the Witchlings series, delightfully narrated by Cyrina Fiallo, sees friends Seven Salazar and Thorn Laroux searching for a cure for their best friend, Valley Peppercorn, who has been turned to stone. As "spares" of Ravenskill, the girls have less magic and power than traditional witches. And as the tension between spares and witches escalates, spares begin to disappear. Seven's ability to talk to animals may help her find out who is behind the disappearances. Fiallo, who has remarkable vocal dexterity, provides a distinct voice for all the characters. Her voices, ranging from a cute high voice to a gruff menacing one, add variety and depth to the listening experience. Fiallo also narrates the Spanish words scattered throughout the story. *A.M.*

Witchlings
House of Elephants
Claribel A. Ortega

Scholastic Audiobooks 9.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781546137320 $27.99
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781546137337 $83.99

HAPPY & SAD & EVERYTHING TRUE

Alex Thayer
Read by Caitlin Kelly

Caitlin Kelly brings authenticity to her narration of this heartwarming debut middle-grade novel. Dee and Juniper were inseparable until sixth grade, but now they're in different classes, and Juniper seems to have found a new group of friends. Feeling isolated, Dee often hides in the bathroom, especially after an embarrassing incident with her mother. It's there she hears someone in the boys' bathroom kicking a grate. Dee strikes up a conversation with Harry about their problems, and they agree to meet again. The next day another student arrives, seeking advice and sparking others to reach out for help. Kelly masterfully captures the triumphs and challenges of this awkward age with perfectly timed nuance. She transitions seamlessly between the children's voices, making each distinct. *S.K.G.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 5.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 10+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668119327 $18.99

TAXI GHOST

Sophie Escabasse
Read by Kathleen McInerney, Danny Campbell, Adenrele Ojo, Sanya Simmons, Ian James Corlett, Éléonore Crépin, Maxine Denis, Gayle Garfinkle, Bill Rowat, Kareem T. Alleyne, Jeff Irving, Adrian Pavone

Narrator Éléonore Crépin leads a full-cast adaptation of a children's graphic novel. When Adèle gets her first period, she's in for a big surprise—suddenly, she can see ghosts! Many women in Adèle's family have been mediums, and now her world has gotten a lot noisier. Crépin gives Adèle a youthful and emotional tone. Her voice reflects Adèle's growing confidence as she meets more ghosts and learns to use her gift to help save them and her Montreal neighborhood. Her supportive older sister, Helen, portrayed by Maxine Denis, is thrilled that Adèle is a medium, while her wary grandmother, narrated by Gayle Garfinkle, wants her to steer clear of ghosts. Spirited music, sound effects, and a narrative from Jeff Irving help listeners visualize the wintry scenes. *E.E.C.*

Listening Library 1.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217014552 $15.00
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217014569 $38.00

OLD SCHOOL

Gordon Korman
Read by Rosemary Benson, Fred Berman, Michael Crouch, Vyvy Nguyen, Mark Sanderlin, Katie Anvil Rich

OLD SCHOOL
HARPER
GORDON KORMAN
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF THE UNTEACHABLES

Michael Crouch leads an enthusiastic crew of narrators as he portrays Dexter Foreman, the only preteen resident of The Pines retirement village. When a visit from the truancy officer lands Dexter at the local middle school, his old-fashioned clothes and habits make him a target of curiosity and ridicule. After one of his "handyman fixes" leads to an unexpected suspension, Dex has to call on both his old and new friends to find the best path forward. Crouch's Dexter is hilariously crotchety and innocent at the same time. His friends, enemies, and unexpected allies are voiced with skill and sly wit by the rest of the cast. Standouts are Katie Anvil Rich as ambitious student reporter Giana and Mark Sanderlin as bewildered former king of the school, Jackson. *N.M.*

Harper Audio 5.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063238183 $27.99

Michael Crouch leads an enthusiastic crew of narrators.

ON A WING AND A TEAR

Cynthia L. Smith
Read by Shaun Taylor-Corbett

Shaun Taylor-Corbett's upbeat narration perfectly suits this heartwarming adventure full of drama, Indigenous folklore, and interspecies friendships. When injured Great Grandfather Bat must get from Chicago to Georgia for a legendary animal ball game, he asks Grandpa Halfmoon for assistance. Grandpa agrees, and soon Great Grandfather Bat and adolescent Grey Squirrel are off on a road trip with Grandpa, grandson Ray, and young housemate Mel. Taylor-Corbett narrates with audible appreciation—quickening his pace for humor and drama, slowing for history and deep emotion. He also builds evocative vocal portraits of the cast, including careful Grandpa, antic Grey Squirrel, family members from several Indigenous nations, and the crazy podcasters our heroes must outwit in order to succeed in this captivating escapade. *A.C.S.*

Harper Audio 5.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063395244 $27.99

STEALING LITTLE MOON: The Legacy of the American Indian Boarding Schools

Dan SasuWeh Jones
Read by Shaun Taylor-Corbett, Dan SaSuWeh Jones, Denise K. Lajimodiere

Native voices resonate in this account of the infamous American Indian boarding schools. Ojibwe poet and activist Denise K. Lajimodiere delivers her foreword, and Ponca author and filmmaker Dan SasuWeh Jones narrates his introduction. Then, Blackfoot actor Shaun Taylor-Corbett takes the mic to narrate Jones's combination of memoir and history. Four generations of Jones's family attended Chilocco Indian Agricultural School in Oklahoma. From its establishment to its closing, their experiences provide personal touchpoints for listeners, helping them navigate this account of a decades-long attempt to strip Native children of their identities and force them to assimilate. Taylor-Corbett evinces pain and anger aplenty, but also love and pride, as the story is ultimately one of resilience, proof positive that the schools failed in their mission. Powerful. *V.S.*

Scholastic Audiobooks 6.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781546154280 $24.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781546154297 $74.99

THE ENEMY'S DAUGHTER

Anne Blankman
Read by Saskia Maarleveld

Narrator Saskia Maarleveld portrays 12-year-old Marta, who is traveling home to Germany with her father on the British ship *Lusitania* in 1915. Maarleveld's delivery reflects the pair's need to disguise their German accents to avoid the other passengers' suspicion that they're German spies. When the ship is torpedoed by a German U-boat, Maarleveld delivers heart-pounding scenes of its sinking. Marta's father is then arrested, and she finds herself alone in a foreign land. Maarleveld's smooth transitions between Irish, British, and German accents add realism to Marta's confusion about the anti-German sentiments she encounters and her struggles with her duplicity when she accepts the care of an openhearted Irish family. This audio provides a fascinating fresh perspective on WWI. *S.W.*

Listening Library 7 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217019236 $23.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217019243 $56.00

THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF TATTERLY

Shanna Miles
Read by JD Jackson

THE FALL OF THE
HOUSE OF
TATTERLY
SHANNA MILES

Narrator JD Jackson's enchanting gravelly voice is an inspired match for this roller-coaster ride of an audio. As a young medium in a family of magic workers, Theo Tatterly considers himself up to any ghostly challenge. But when a terrifying hag appears during a field trip and his aunt has a premonition of doom, Theo finds himself tested to his limits and fighting for his life. Jackson's narration strikes the perfect note for a preteen boy who is equally prepared for exorcisms and pickup basketball games. He's funny, heartfelt, and just a tiny bit cocky before things all start going wrong. Jackson also excels at voicing the unusual denizens of this vibrant version of Charleston, where magic waits around every corner. *N.M.*

Brilliance Audio 5.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781511345040 $35.99

> *Jackson's enchanting gravelly voice is an inspired match.*

UNDER ATTACK: Kidnapped from Ukraine, Book 1

Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch
Read by Anna Fikhman

Anna Fikhman's melodic Ukrainian accent briefly sets the scene of a close-knit family. Twelve-year-old twins, outgoing Dariia and quiet Rada, live in Mariupol with their parents. Rapidly Fikhman plunges listeners into a sleep disturbed by the 2022 Russian attack, which separates the family and hurls Dariia and her mother into a world she couldn't have imagined. Fikhman excels at placing listeners on dangerous streets, where death lurks, and into crowded shelters, where safety is questionable. Fikhman's emotional tone reflects the horror when Dariia and her mother are separated without warning: Dariia is sent to live with a family of cheery Russians who assault her with propaganda. Neither author nor narrator holds back during agonizing situations. *S.W.*

KIDNAPPED
FROM UKRAINE
UNDER ATTACK
MARSHA FORCHUK SKRYPUCH
READ BY ANNA FIKHMAN

Scholastic Audiobooks 7 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781546137269 $24.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781546137276 $74.99

INKBOUND: METICULOUS JONES AND THE SKULL TATTOO

Philippa Leathley
Read by Ell Potter

Magic-loving young listeners have a new world to explore. With a crisp English accent and a spirited performance, Ell Potter invites listeners into this middle-grade adventure. Eleven-year-old Meticulous (Mettie) has been afraid of her own fate ever since her magical tattoo predicted she'd become a murderer. When her father disappears, Mettie is desperate to find him. As she explores the floating city of New London, Mettie learns more about magic, her family history, and the mysterious group the Black Moths. Potter effectively conveys Mettie's frustration with the adults around her and her impatience with their inaction. Mettie's impetuousness gets her into lots of sticky situations, but fortunately, she makes some new friends who help her out of them. *J.M.D.*

Harper Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063376540 $20.99

Author Adrianna Cuevas

WHAT FELL FROM THE SKY

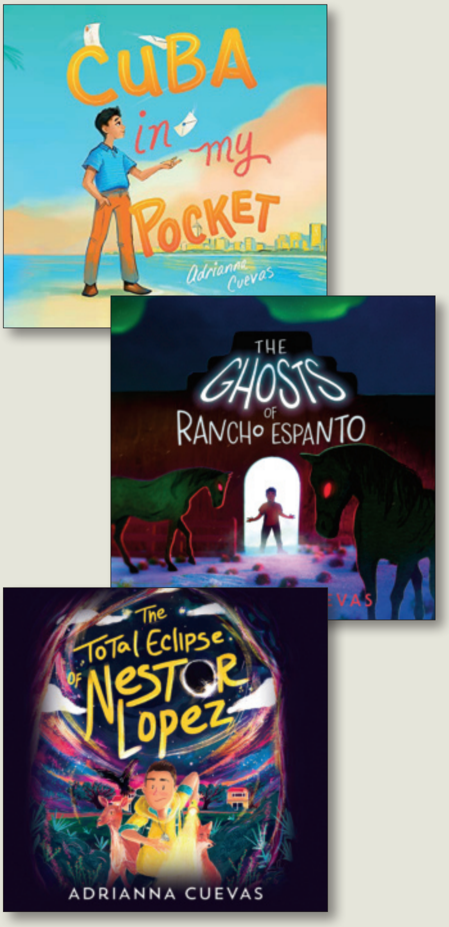
Adrianna Cuevas
Read by Giordan Diaz, P.J. Morgan, Matt Haynes, Beth Hicks, Stephanie Willing, Sean Patrick Hopkins, Erin deWard, Cary Hite

ADRIANNA CUEVAS
WHAT FELL FROM THE SKY

In the small town of Soledad, Texas, in 1952, 12-year-old Pineda encounters a young alien when she crash-lands on his family's pecan farm. Unfortunately, the U.S. military has just taken over the town for a war games exercise. Giordan Diaz gives a winning performance as Pineda, communicating his humor and kindness and switching easily between English and Spanish, which Pineda speaks with his Cuban mom. Chapters alternate between Pineda's point of view and Luisa's—that's what Pineda calls the alien, since he can't pronounce her name in her language. P.J. Morgan gives Luisa an appropriately nervous, hesitant voice as she slowly learns English. As Pineda and his friends try to reunite Luisa with her parents, the chorus of voices for other characters who chime in during the story's climax reinforces the message about the power of community. Warm, funny, and timely. *J.M.D.*

Dreamscape 5.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781666679236 $48.99

Warm, funny, and timely.


CuBA in my POCKET
Adrianna Cuevas
THE GHOSTS OF RANCHO ESPANTO
The Total Eclipse of Nestor Lopez
ADRIANNA CUEVAS

More Listening

CUBA IN MY POCKET

Adrianna Cuevas,
read by Anthony Rey Perez

Dreamscape Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD

THE GHOSTS OF RANCHO ESPANTO

Adrianna Cuevas,
read by Anthony Rey Perez

Dreamscape Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD

THE TOTAL ECLIPSE OF NESTOR LOPEZ

Adrianna Cuevas,
read by Anthony Rey Perez

Dreamscape Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: CD, MP3, DD
Library Ed.: CD

Scan For Free Magazines

WILL'S RACE FOR HOME

Jewell Parker Rhodes
Read by Christopher Hampton

In a lilting voice, narrator Christopher Hampton captures the hope and curiosity of Will, a young Black boy who is hoping to claim land during the Oklahoma Land Rush. Will's companions include his stern father and their mule, Belle, and later the gentle but wizened ex-Union soldier, Caesar. Southern accents, including Will's, and twangy cowboy voices enhance the historic setting. Northern characters are more neutral, but moments of racial tension are full of anger and stress. During the harrowing story, Will is anguished during a fight, Pa falters in fearful moments, and Caesar strains when he is badly injured. As he nears Oklahoma, Will's confidence grows, as does his father's pride in him. Adventure abounds in this moving production. *L.M.*

Hachette Audio 4.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668647417 $18.99

MOUSE AND HIS DOG: Dogtown, Book 2

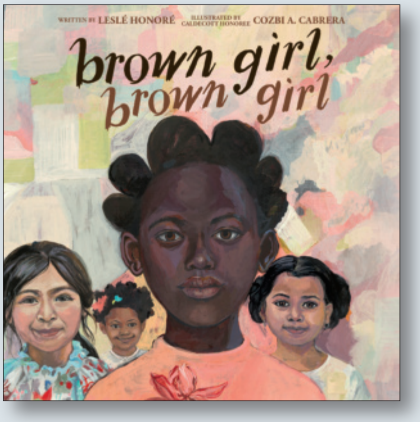
Katherine Applegate, Gennifer Choldenko
Read by Daniel Henning

Daniel Henning zestfully introduces a busy dog shelter's diverse inhabitants. Listeners meet Mouse, who lives there for all the free-flowing kibble but also to befriend and help the most troublesome dogs. Outstanding sound effects, including constant background barking, add atmosphere, as does Mouse's endearing voice and personality. His best buddy, masterfully rendered, is kindly but impulsive Buster, who's frequently returned from potential forever homes. When Mouse learns about "The List," which spells bad news for misbehaving dogs, he's determined to find everyone good homes. Most enjoyable are Mouse's helpers, Saavii, with her appealing Indian accent, and Mr. Molinari, a dedicated teacher whose student group reads to well-behaved dogs. Henning convincingly conveys Mouse's chats about his favorite books and the dogs' improved lives. *S.G.B.*

Macmillan Audio 3.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250354020 $10.99

BROWN GIRL, BROWN GIRL

Leslé Honoré
Read by Leslé Honoré



With a rhythmic cadence and a call-and-response reminiscent of *Brown Bear, Brown Bear, What Do You See?* author Leslé Honoré narrates her uplifting book. Soft, warm music begins the narration as Honoré asks somber questions, such as "Brown girl, Brown girl / what did you do?. . . who will you be?" Honoré responds to the questions with solemn answers before the narrative moves to more uplifting answers such as, "a powerful woman, who is wonderfully free." Honoré has a warm voice, and listeners will be able to hear her smile; her positivity radiates as she asks deeply meaningful questions and offers hopeful answers. This short, impactful poem is sure to move listeners to reflection. An author's note concludes. *A.M.*

Hachette Audio 6 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668650134 $4.99

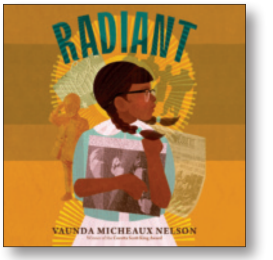
> *Honoré has a warm voice, and listeners will be able to hear her smile.*

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY

Maria Marianayagam
Read by Rama Krishna Vallury

Narrator Rama Krishna Vallury charms in this heartfelt audio about when to fit in and when to stand out. Ajay always follows his Sri Lankan parents' strict rules for him: no bad grades, no scary movies, and NO friendships with girls. When a taunt from a popular kid goads Ajay into stealing a chocolate bar with a valuable prize inside, he has to figure out how to get his life back on track. Vallury balances Ajay's natural sweetness and his frustration with his cultural separation from his peers in a voice that sounds authentically conflicted and thoughtful. His animated narration also brings vibrancy to the people in Ajay's life, especially the gruff Scary Al, owner of the pillaged store. *N.M.*

Harper Audio 5.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063360952 $20.99

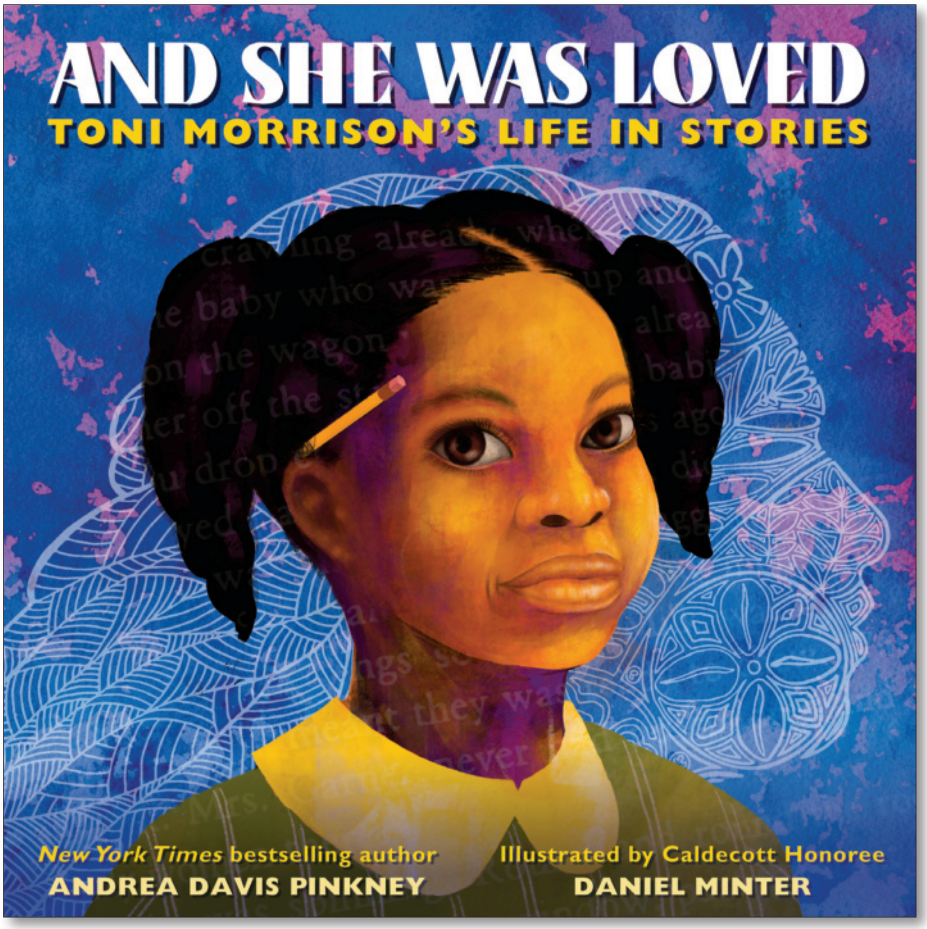


RADIANT

Vaunda Micheaux Nelson
Read by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

Author/narrator Vaunda Micheaux Nelson presents this nostalgic story in verse, set in 1960s Pittsburgh. Listeners meet endearing 11-year-old Cooper Dale, who is hoping to shine in her all-white school. Emotive descriptions of her family's horrified reaction to the Kennedy assassination and her delight at the Beatles are realistic. Nelson flawlessly presents the family's warm interactions and Cooper's maturing as she finds she was misled about a teacher others had maligned. Most poignant is her questioning of others on how they cope with constant racism as she learns about forgiveness from her mother and teacher. Learning about Cooper's favorite books, historical figures, and poetry is especially enhanced in the audio format. *S.G.B.*

Listening Library 3 hrs. Unabridged Ages 10+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217019076 $14.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217019083 $34.00


AND SHE WAS LOVED
TONI MORRISON'S LIFE IN STORIES
New York Times bestselling author
ANDREA DAVIS PINKNEY
Illustrated by Caldecott Honoree
DANIEL MINTER

AND SHE WAS LOVED: Toni Morrison's Life in Stories

Andrea Davis Pinkney
Read by Andrea Davis Pinkney

Andrea Davis Pinkney showcases her praise poem to Toni Morrison with a practiced delivery, addressing her subject as "you" throughout. Pinkney is gentle in describing Morrison's youthful love of letters; she deepens her voice as the future Nobelist gains confidence at Howard University. Her voice swells with pride as Morrison conquers the literary world as an editor and writer before turning conversational in her author's note. When Pinkney punctuates her text with the titular refrain, the brief shifts to third person are somewhat jarring. Listeners who peruse the picture book alongside the audio will see that the refrain is set apart in display type, and they'll also marvel at Daniel Minter's ethereal images. Print and audio combine for an experience worthy of Morrison's life and legacy. *V.S.*

Hachette Audio 20 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668647325 $4.99

A PLATE OF HOPE: The Inspiring Story of Chef José Andrés and World Central Kitchen

Erin Frankel
Read by Luis Carlos de La Lombana

Like chef José Andrés, the subject of this picture-book biography, this audiobook is the perfect blend of excellent ingredients. Soft Spanish guitar throughout reflects Andrés's background. Sound effects like sizzling dishes accent events in Andrés's life. Luis Carlos de La Lombana's narration has an emotional tone that encourages listening. He combines a skillful integration of Spanish and accented English, an emphasis on the rhythms of lyrical writing, and a refrain of "no era solo/it wasn't only"—a chorus that changes to reflect Andrés's transformations and growth from loving the sound of sizzling to wanting to tell stories with food to feeding the world with his humanitarian efforts at World Central Kitchen. *S.W.* **2025 Odyssey Award Winner**

Dreamscape 14 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781666653847 $7.79

THE GIRL WHO BUILT AN OCEAN

Jess Keating
Read by Hannah Van Der Westhuysen

Hannah Van Der Westhuysen narrates this beautifully crafted biography, which captures the wonder of Jeanne Villepreux-Power's life. Born in 1794 to a dressmaker and a cobbler, Jeanne spent her childhood watching her parents transform scraps into something remarkable. Eventually, she became an acclaimed seamstress herself. However, her deepest passion lay in nature, particularly in the argonaut, a shy and mysterious sea creature now recognized as a type of octopus. Frustrated by its elusive behavior, Jeanne created the first aquarium to study it more closely. This audio also includes a brief explanation of Villepreux-Power's journey to being recognized as the "Mother of Aquariophily" and a timeline of her life. Van Der Westhuysen's precise pacing and emphasis on key moments make the narration both engaging and memorable. *S.K.G.*

Listening Library 13 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217014767 $5.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217014774 $22.00

MARJORY'S RIVER OF GRASS: Marjory Stoneman Douglas, Fierce Protector of the Everglades

Josie James
Read by Elizabeth Wiley

Elizabeth Wiley narrates this short biography of Marjory Stoneman Douglas, an early champion of the Florida Everglades ecosystem and author of the groundbreaking book *River of Grass*. Douglas was born in 1890 and lived for 108 years, working as a journalist, writer, and conservationist. Wiley's narration of her story, which includes numerous quotations, evokes a sense of the time in which Marjory lived and the gravitas of her work. Wiley's mature timbre, slow pacing, and ability to deliver prose in a poetic style afford the listener a view of an amazing woman who helped save the Florida Everglades from development. *L.T.*

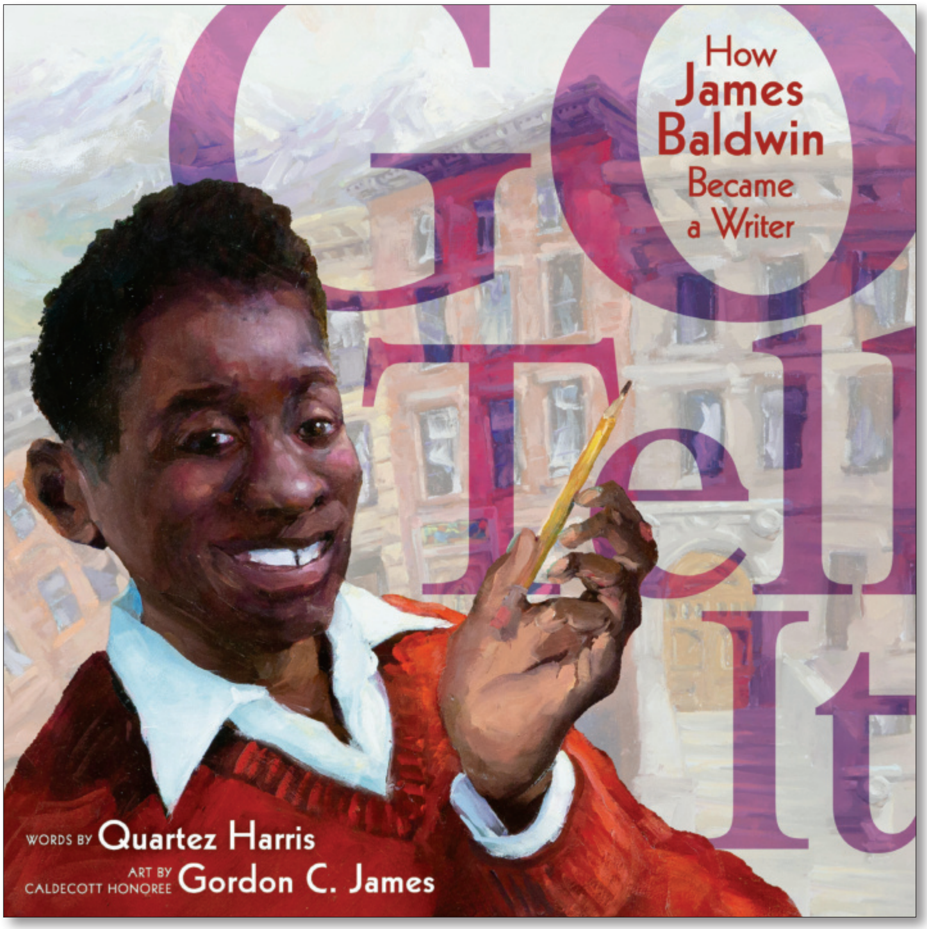
Hachette Audio 24 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668647387 $3.84

GO TELL IT: How James Baldwin Became a Writer

Quartez Harris
Read by Shamaan Casey

The warmth of Shamaan Casey's baritone surrounds listeners just as words envelop young James Baldwin in this biography. Quartez Harris's text shifts between a straightforward account and an ecstatic celebration. Casey navigates these tonal transitions with ease, expressing "Jimmy's" fascination with language in occasional meditative recitations of words and phrases. Sorrowful tones underscore Baldwin's conflicts with his stepfather, a preacher, and an encounter with racist police officers. Hushed wonderment indicates his personal liberation through books and writing. Beneath Casey's narration a music track provides aural texture: mostly jazz riffs from a piano, trumpet, and drum combo, with a gospel interlude at a key moment. Young listeners may not know Baldwin before encountering this audiobook, but they'll emerge appreciative of the power of words in shaping him. *V.S.*

Hachette Audio 17 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668647332 $4.99


GO Tell It
How James Baldwin Became a Writer
WORDS BY Quartez Harris
ART BY CALDECOTT HONOREE Gordon C. James

A MAP FOR FALASTEEN: A Palestinian Child's Search for Home

Maysa Odeh
Read by Dalia Ramahi

A MAP FOR FALASTEEN

Lyrical music accents this poetic, poignant audiobook, which begins as Falasteen seeks to find her family's country on a map and finds she can't locate Palestine. Narrator Dalia Ramahi voices the girl's confusion, which leads her to speak to family members. Ramahi evokes her grandfather's steadiness as he draws an image-laden map, giving life to various locations. Ramahi also reads the grandmother's sorrowful account of the painful history of Palestine. Tenderly yet strongly, Ramahi depicts the girl's mother as she explains that there are "places you don't need to find on a map" and that Palestine "lives in you and me." Ramahi weaves cultural elements gracefully into her narration and sensitively expresses the longing, hope, and strength that give Falasteen a sense of identity. *S.W.*

Macmillan Audio 9 mins. Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250365996 $1.99

STORIES OF THE SPIRIT OF JUSTICE

Jemar Tisby
Read by Jemar Tisby

Jemar Tisby's experience as a teacher and public speaker, including his "Pass the Mic" podcast, is evident in this clear, compelling narration of his own work. A companion piece to his book *The Spirit of Justice*, this collection shares stories about dozens of people who followed their faith to seek justice and pursue the dignity of all people. Tisby's stories are concise and meaningful, and his voice is a great vehicle for sharing them—at times warm and comforting, and other times strident and firm. Listeners of all ages will find reasons to revisit this resource. With its discussion prompts and suggestions for further reading, this audiobook will generate many meaningful conversations. *C.F.*

Zondervan 5.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780310145622 $19.79

WHEN THE STAMMER CAME TO STAY

Maggie O'Farrell
Read by Aoife McMahon

Min is messy and chatty and spontaneous, but out of nowhere, she develops a stammer that changes her life. Not only does the audio format sound entirely appropriate to illustrate her struggle to produce language, Aiofe McMahon doubles down on that advantage, with her lovely Irish accent and expressiveness ensuring that all the characters teem with life. Min's sister, Bea, is her opposite—tidy and attentive—and McMahon encapsulates Bea's need for organization. As the sisters search for the shadow hanging over Min's shoulder grabbing the words before she can get them out, they are assisted by a slow-talking mycologist who observes that everyone struggles with something and that Min's stammer has brought her empathy. A librarian notes Min's newfound ability to come up with multiple alternative words. *A.B.*

Dreamscape 43 mins. Unabridged Ages 6+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781666679243 $9.99

MOONSTORM: Moonstorm, Book 1

Yoon Ha Lee
Read by Ami Park

YOON HA LEE
MOONSTORM

Korean American Ami Park ably voices Yoon Ha Lee's space opera, incorporating the character names and gender-neutral pronouns naturally, allowing listeners to more easily follow the story. Ten-year-old Hwajinn is saved by a lancer pilot after being the only survivor of an Imperial attack on her rebel moon. Five years later, she's become Hwa Young, a loyal servant of the Empire who is determined to fly a lancer of her own. When rebels attack, she's dismayed but acts quickly, saving her schoolmates. A shortage of pilot candidates leaves all of them, including her nemesis and the class clown, equally unprepared for the realities of battle but desperately needed. Park skillfully conveys Hwa's anxiety and determination. *E.J.F.*

Listening Library 9.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593794777 $25.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593794784 $63.00

THE LAST BOOKSTORE ON EARTH

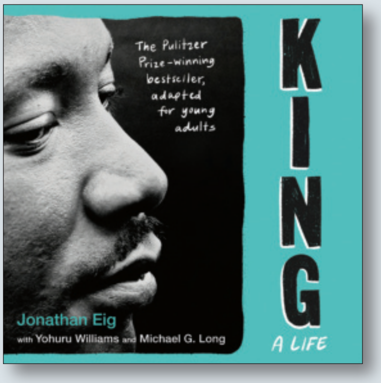
Lily Braun-Arnold
Read by Bailey Carr

Narrator Bailey Carr introduces listeners to Liz, a 17-year-old who is taking sanctuary in the bookstore she worked in before a cataclysmic storm left her one of the few survivors in New Jersey. When she catches a girl named Maeve breaking into the store to find shelter from another impending storm, Liz needs to balance the difficulties of having a relationship with the benefits of having someone with survival skills. While Carr's pleasant, well-modulated narration can make it difficult to distinguish between the two characters, her use of pace and volume captures their distress, along with the horrors they face in the story's postapocalyptic world. *E.J.F.*

Listening Library 8.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade: ISBN 9798217017812 $25.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217017829 $63.00

KING: A LIFE (YOUNG ADULT EDITION)

Jonathan Eig, Yohuru Williams,
Michael G. Long [Adapt.]
Read by Dion Graham


The Pulitzer Prize-winning bestseller, adapted for young adults
KING
A LIFE
Jonathan Eig
with Yohuru Williams and Michael G. Long

Listeners are given a well-rounded portrait of the leading figure in the Civil Rights movement, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King—fleshed out by fascinating and coherent accounts of the events of the day and the people around him. Dion Graham masterfully portrays the voices and emotions of Dr. King's orations; Coretta King's softer, lighter speech; and the racist attitudes of people in crowds and those that conspired against him. An author's note emphasizes the many facets of King's character gleaned from FBI recordings, personal papers, and hundreds of interviews. This production succeeds at reinforcing the fact that the inspiring civil rights leader "is a person, not just a holiday." *E.J.F.*

Macmillan Audio 4.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250392428 $10.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781250410757 $54.99

Graham masterfully portrays the voices and emotions of Dr. King's orations.

WHO OWNS THE MOON? And Other Conundrums of Exploring and Using Space

Cynthia Levinson, Jennifer Swanson
Read by Jaime Lamchick

Narrator Jaime Lamchick's bright, engaging performance is a great fit for this young adult audiobook about humanity's complicated space age relationship with planet Earth's moon. Listeners are launched into the competitive race to the moon between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in the 1950s-60s, setting the stage for technological and scientific advances, and the complexities of international treaties between spacefaring nations. Coauthors Levinson and Swanson take subject matter a teenage audience might not usually pay attention to—international legal agreements—and pairs it with real-world disagreements and their consequences among nations. Lamchick's zippy performance, reminiscent of old-time radio broadcasts, plays out scenes involving imaginary astronauts squabbling over lunar resources to show listeners how treaties might help resolve actual space conflicts. *J.R.T.*

Listening Library 5.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217021093 $15.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217021109 $38.00

HEAVENLY TYRANT: Iron Widow, Book 2

Xiran Jay Zhao
Read by Rong Fu

Narrator Rong Fu returns in the next audiobook in the Iron Widow series. Zetian has awakened Qin Zheng, legendary emperor of Huaxia from centuries past. He desires a complete overhaul of Huaxia to eliminate corruption and misogyny, but despite being a common goal, it is still one Zetian is forced into. Fu skillfully adjusts her accent when voicing Qin Zheng, using a British accent most of the time, and switching to a different accent as he changes dialects. Her depictions of old and new characters are easily distinguishable. Even as the plot delves into political theory, Fu's delivery is enthusiastic and engaging. *A.K.R.*

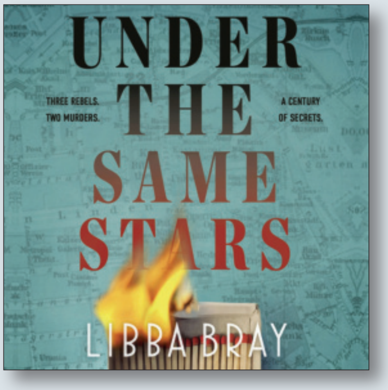
Tundra Books 21 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780735270015 $18.89

LIBERTAD
Bessie Flores Zaldívar
Read by Spring Inés Peña

Using her vast vocal talent, narrator Spring Inés Peña brings the story of a teen named Libertad, known as Libi, to life. During the 2017 presidential election in Honduras, Libi undergoes a political and personal awakening. Along with her older brother, she becomes involved in student protests and shares political poetry that she writes. A tense home situation worsens when Libi's mother finds texts outing Libi as a lesbian. A financially struggling single mother still dealing with the murder of her sister in a political protest casts a shadow on the family. Facing a conservative society, Libi contemplates studying abroad, but can she leave everything she loves behind? Peña narrates poetic passages in Spanish beautifully. Her command of tone, pacing, and emotion conveys the heightened tension that Libi and her family experience. *A.M.*

Listening Library 12.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593945858 $27.50
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593945865 $69.00

UNDER THE SAME STARS
Libba Bray
Read by January LaVoy, Jeremy Carlisle Parker, Major Curda



A trio of narrators portray teens from different eras and settings. January LaVoy transitions smoothly from the accented dialogue of Hanna and Sophie, two Polish teens, to an unstressed voicing of their risk-taking amid Hitler's threats in 1939. Jeremy Carlisle Parker transitions listeners to 1980 West Berlin, where Jenny adjusts to her family's move from Dallas. Parker also portrays passionate, German-accented Lena, a queer punk rocker, whom Jenny comes to love. In addition, Parker delivers the softer storytelling tones of an older German woman. Major Curda communicates the growth of Brooklynite Miles in 2020, who solves the mysterious disappearances of two girls sixty years earlier. The trio heighten their narrations as the story's tension increases and connections become clear. Libba Bray cheerily reads her author's note. *S.W.*

Macmillan Audio 16.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250353993 $32.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781250383303 $69.99

A trio of narrators portray teens from different eras and settings.

DEATH'S COUNTRY
R.M. Romero
Read by Giordan Diaz

Narrator Giordan Diaz has a dreamy quality to his voice, perfect for this reimagined version of the Orpheus and Eurydice myth. After nearly drowning, 16-year-old Andres made a bargain with Death to avoid dying. Now living in Miami with bitterly divorced parents, Andres finds refuge with his friends Liora and Renee. The trio form a romance, which comes to a halt when Liora dies in a car accident. Determined to bring Liora back, Renee and Andres travel to the underworld. Diaz has an expressive voice with a raspy quality that works well with the range of emotions in the story. He aptly narrates in Portuguese and Spanish when necessary. Using changes in pacing and tone, he conveys the emotional roller-coaster ride in the underworld. *A.M.*

Listening Library 4.25 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593909980 $15.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593909997 $38.00

AFTER LIFE
Gayle Forman
Read by Gail Shalan, Jade Wheeler, Andrew J. Andersen

Three versatile narrators portray nine characters who are involved with the story of 17-year-old Amber, who discovers that she's been dead for seven years and that all the relationships she once knew have fractured. Gail Shalan depicts Amber's emotions—horror at her mother's response to her death, shock at her parents' failed marriage, surprise that her sister is now her age, and determination to become a better person. Jade Wheeler portrays the other female characters, and Andrew Andersen does the same for the men. They differentiate teens and adults, distinguish the times in which scenes take place, and give a sense of healing at the story's end. *S.W.*

Harper Audio 6.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063346178 $23.99

WHERE THE LIBRARY HIDES:
Secrets of the Nile, Book 2
Isabel Ibañez
Read by Ahmed Hamad, Ana Osorio

Ana Osorio and Ahmed Hamad are consistently excellent as they deliver this audiobook, which takes place in 1885. Osorio portrays 19-year-old Inez Olivera with a light accent that reflects her Argentinian Bolivian background. Inez has escaped murder and duplicity, and now seeks to break away from her uncle's control and to stay in Egypt. Osorio speaks in a thoughtful tone as Inez considers whether to marry ex-soldier Whit Hayes. Inez wonders about his secrecy, but in periodic chapters from Whit's point of view, Hamad makes clear where Whit stands with respect to his love for Inez. In the satisfying conclusion, both narrators balance the detailed descriptions of settings, the plot's many twists, the lovers' chemistry, and various historical elements. *S.W.*

Macmillan Audio 14.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250366450 $32.99

THE ROMANTIC TRAGEDIES OF A DRAMA KING

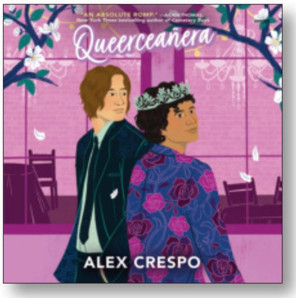
Harry Trevaldwyn
Read by Harry Trevaldwyn

Author Harry Trevaldwyn's perfectly pitched, slightly sibilant, and very funny narration puts listeners up close and personal with British teenager Patch. Patch begins the school year with the goals of getting his new nickname to catch on (his name is Patrick) and getting his first boyfriend. Trevaldwyn's Patch is haplessly, sometimes disastrously overconfident, and he's both exhausting and endearing in equal measure. Much of the action takes place during rehearsals for the school drama club's production of *Sweeney Todd*. As Patch, along with best friend Jean, hatches his boyfriend plots, gets to know castmates Sam and Peter, and scours his mom's self-help books, he does, eventually, have some welcome emotional growth, and the audiobook's conclusion is a sweet and satisfying one. *J.M.D.*

Macmillan Audio 7 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250381514 $19.99

QUEERCEAÑERA

Alex Crespo
Read by André Santana



Narrator André Santana captures the angst and emotional turmoil plaguing gay teen Joaquin Zoido. His father and sister want to celebrate him by having a coming-out party. But his mother's constant backhanded remarks hurt him. When his childhood crush, Felix, reappears after a long absence, Joaquin finds his small amorous gestures confusing but exciting. Santana has a voice that changes tone and pacing aptly, conveying the uncertainty Joaquin feels. Santana narrates humorous passages with a twinkle in his voice and convincingly alters his tone to narrate dramatic passages. Santana's vocal talents showcase this sweet, often hilarious, coming-of-age story. *A.M.*

Harper Audio 7.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063257432 $27.99

A BANH MI FOR TWO

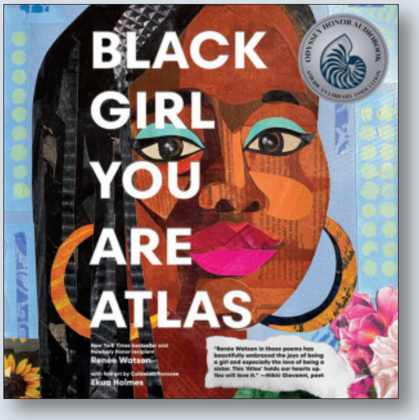
Trinity Nguyen
Read by Carolina Do, VyVy Nguyen

Narrators Carolina Do and VyVy Nguyen delight listeners as two foodie teens who fall in love in Vietnam in this sweet sapphic YA romance. ViVi, a Vietnamese American college student, has always been curious about her family's heritage. She follows a Vietnamese street food blog and ends up studying abroad in Sài Gòn (Saigon). Lan, another teen, is the author of the food blog. She's been struggling to write since her father passed away. The two teens develop a friendship that develops into something more. Do and Nguyen voice Lan and Vivi in alternating chapters, using distinct deliveries with different pitches, pacing, and tones. Their contrasting styles and smooth pronunciations keep listeners engaged with this charming tribute to Sài Gòn. *V.T.M.*

Macmillan Audio 7.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250366214 $19.99

BLACK GIRL YOU ARE ATLAS

Renée Watson
Read by Renée Watson



Renée Watson narrates her semiautobiographical collection of free-verse and short-form poems, which introduce listeners to the lyricism of her writing. Her delivery features repeated rhythmic patterns, haunting repetitions, and startling imagery. Race, class, and gender are eloquently rendered in poems on possibility, resilience, celebration, and the power of womanhood. Topics reflected upon range from the simplicity of early perceptions to the complexity of issues like violence and brutality. Watson's voice is as deep and rich as her material; her poems embrace the innocence of her early life and the trials of becoming. Her lines of dialect sing with authenticity. Her intonations allow listeners to experience different connotations of the same word, and she varies her pacing to emphasize meaning. *S.W.* **2025 Odyssey Honor**

Listening Library 1 hr. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593820889 $8.00
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593820896 $22.00

Watson's voice is as deep and rich as her material.

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART

Lex Croucher
Read by Olivia Dowd, Kit Griffiths

Olivia Dowd and Kit Griffiths narrate a slow-burn romance between the granddaughter of Robin Hood and the healer she has kidnapped. Mariel Hartley-Hood knows that what she does as part of the Merry Men is right and benefits the common people. But Clem, who is unarguably a "common person," disagrees and starts to raise uncomfortable points. Dowd and Griffiths complement each other in their performances, with Dowd leaning into Mariel's fraught heritage, while Griffiths plays up Clem's self-stated position as a delusional optimist whose go-to defense is humor. As their relationship progresses, both Mariel and Clem must deal with darker aspects of their lives. Dowd and Griffiths plumb unexpected emotional depths that lead to satisfying and believable resolutions. *K.M.P.*

Macmillan Audio 11.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250366474 $26.99

MISMATCHED: A Modern Graphic Retelling of Emma

Anne Camlin

Read by Mark Sanderlin, Jordan Cobb, Shannon Tyo, Analise Scarpacci, Eddy Lee, Aspen Vincent, André Santana, Michael Crouch, Sagan Chen, Adriana Sananes

A full cast, backed by sound effects and music, transform this queer adaptation of Jane Austen's *Emma* from the graphic novel to an audiobook. High school senior and Instagram influencer Evan, a leader in his high school's LGBTQ+ student association, sees himself as Cupid and can't resist the opportunity to set up shy and dowdy newcomer Natalia—despite the warnings of his best friend, Davi. Mark Sanderlin's age-appropriate voice projects Evan's emotions. The subplots are helped by the other cast members' ease with portraying their characters. Examples include André Santana's capable depiction of Davi's growing frustration and Shannon Tyo's high-pitched, fast-paced presentation of the chatterbox Anika. *E.J.F.*

Hachette Audio 1.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668644126 $14.99

INFERNO'S HEIR

Tiffany Wang

Read by Natalie Naudus

Narrator Natalie Naudus voices this intriguing teen fantasy about an outcast princess with the rare ability to control both fire and water. After surviving multiple attempts on her life and being betrothed against her will, Princess Teia hatches a plan to infiltrate the rebellious Dawnbreakers and betray them to her cruel older brother to gain his favor. Naudus narrates entirely with an English accent and creates easily distinguished voices among the elite and the rebels. Her precise pacing and sinister tone enhance the political intrigue Teia navigates as she questions the monarchy and feels drawn to the Dawnbreakers' idealism, even falling in love with a member. Naudus's voices for headstrong yet naïve Kyra and thief Enna are particularly enjoyable. *A.K.R.*

Podium 10.75 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781039478282 $71.42

GIRLS LIKE HER

Melanie Sumrow

Read by January LaVoy, Melanie Sumrow

GIRLS LIKE HER
MELANIE SUMROW

Golden Voice January LaVoy clearly differentiates the many characters in this story and smoothly transitions among them. She gives the deepest portrayals of the two main characters and their developing relationship: sullen, angry 14-year-old Ruby, who is accused of murder and is facing being moved to an adult women's prison, and compassionate Cadence Ware, the calm social worker who persuades Ruby to tell her story. In doing so, Cadence must confront her own struggles in order to understand her client's past and present feelings. LaVoy provides tension to a driving narrative. Snippets of conversations, courtroom proceedings, letters, and newspaper articles create sound effects that make successful transitions. The author narrates her foreword, afterword, and resource guide. *S.W.* **2025 Odyssey Honor**

Harper Audio 9 hrs. Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063343313 $20.99

LaVoy provides tension to a driving narrative.

THE SCORPION QUEEN

Mina Fears

Read by Sandra Okuboyejo

Narrator Sandra Okuboyejo makes plain the feelings of 16-year-old Amie Aqit, one of Princess Mariama's three chambermaids, after Amie's own sister's betrayal caused her disinheritance and the end of her engagement. Now disliked by the other palace servants, Amie becomes closer to the princess, whose father, Emperor Sulyeman, has created a series of impossible trials for her suitors, boiling them publicly when they fail. Amie finds herself on a dangerous journey with the other two maids to help end the trials, save the hundredth suitor, and gain the means to escape with her intended, Kader. While there are occasional distracting mistakes in pronunciation, the narration clearly expresses the dangers and surprises Amie faces in a story inspired by a Malian fairy tale. *E.J.F.*

MINA FEARS
Read by SANDRA OKUBOYEJO
THE SCORPION QUEEN

Macmillan Audio 11 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250900852 $26.99

LIES ON THE SERPENT'S TONGUE

Kate Pearsall

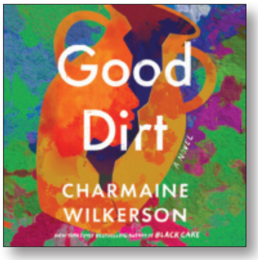
Read by Julie Webster

Julie Webster narrates the companion to *Bittersweet in the Hollow*. A previously minor character, Rowan James, a teen who can smell lies on people's breath, tells this story. Webster's soft Southern accent reflects the Appalachian setting, and she deftly communicates Rowan's sarcasm. Also strong is Rowan's distrust of Hadrian, the family's farm worker. Webster captures Rowan's rage, which is reduced by working in the woods for the U.S. Forest Service. There, Webster's narration allows the lyricism of this novel to shine as listeners come to understand that magical forces are operating against the very real threats of poachers. Webster marvelously blends the fantastical and the real in this audiobook. *S.W.*

Listening Library 9.5 hrs. Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593944691 $27.50
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593944707 $69.00

GOOD DIRT
Charmaine Wilkerson
Read by January LaVoy

Golden Voice narrator January LaVoy brings empathy and believable characterizations to this multigenerational saga by the author of the bestselling novel *Black Cake*. Years ago, Ebby Freeman's brother was killed and a family heirloom shattered in a still unsolved crime. In the present, Ebby, who's from an affluent Black family, has been jilted by her white fiancé. After bolting to Europe, she must piece together all that is broken to solve the long-ago crime and put her life back together. Always warm and sympathetic, LaVoy adjusts her pace and tone to signal shifts as the story moves between the pre-Civil War South and the current day. Coupled with realistic portrayals of everyone from children and teens to old men, the result is an engrossing audio experience. *A.C.S.*



Random House Audio 11.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593505236 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593505243 $85.50

THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS
Warona Jay
Read by Ony Uhiara, Sam Stafford

Top-notch narrations from Ony Uhiara and Sam Stafford make Jay's unflinching look at systemic racism sound and feel truthful. After numerous rejections from white London publishers and agents, determined playwright Relebogile Naledi Mpho Moruakgomo, aka "Eddie," hits upon a daring scheme to get her play performed on the London stage. Uhiara's range of voices is impressive. She handles Eddie's droll observations stylishly, she delivers British and Botswanan accents flawlessly, her pacing is spot-on, and her attitude as Eddie is convincing. Stafford, as Eddie's white acquaintance, Hugo, sounds variously impressed, confused, and doubtful before accepting Eddie's outrageous plan. Both narrators capture the author's sharp wit and clever nuances, and as things fall apart and chaos ensues, each performance adds credibility to this entertaining audiobook. *S.J.H.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 11.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668110812 $26.99

THREE DAYS IN JUNE
Anne Tyler
Read by J. Smith-Cameron

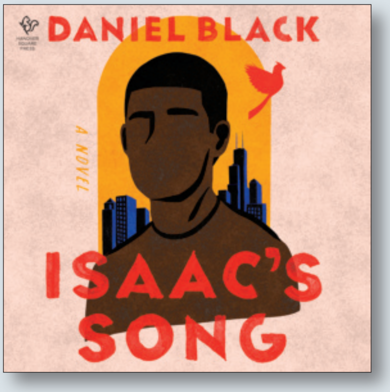
Anyone who has been a member of a wedding party will be captivated by Anne Tyler's latest audiobook, appealingly narrated by J. Smith-Cameron. She captures the intonation and Mid-Atlantic accent of 61-year-old Gail, the bride's mother, whose job as an assistant principal is suddenly at risk on the eve of her daughter Debbie's wedding. Gail's ex-husband, Max, shows up unexpectedly on her doorstep, seeking a place to stay with the cat he is fostering. At the same time, Debbie has learned that her fiancé may have cheated on her. Smith-Cameron keeps listeners oriented as the story shifts from the present-day festivities to flashbacks of Max and Gail's married days. Smith-Cameron deftly conveys Tyler's shrewd observations on marriage and family while illuminating the relatable story's poignancy and humor. *M.J.*

Random House Audio 4.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217013593 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217013609 $66.50

"A poignant, nuanced perspective of growing up queer in a traditional Black home in America. Honored to narrate it. Dr. Black's work is urgent and necessary."
—Narrator JD Jackson

Photo by Angela Navarette Photography

ISAAC'S SONG
Daniel Black
Read by JD Jackson



Narrator JD Jackson delivers a stirring performance of this cathartic companion to Daniel Black's *Don't Cry for Me*. Isaac, a young, queer Black man, undertakes therapy for help processing his emotions following the death of his father. His therapist encourages him to write down his life story to help him unpack its difficult circumstances. Jackson moves listeners with his raw characterization of Isaac's painful reflections on growing up with an abusive, homophobic father; internalized shame over his sexuality; and buried horror at the impact of the Rodney King beating, the AIDS epidemic, and more. Jackson's lively pace and emotive deep voice capture the vulnerability in Isaac's struggles with forgiveness and self-acceptance. A heavy but ultimately hopeful memoir-like listening experience. *V.T.M.*

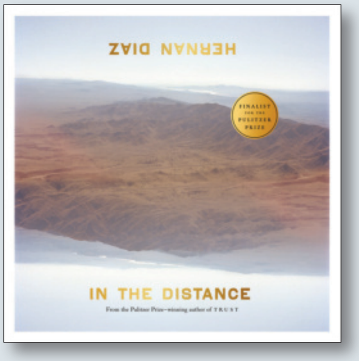
Harlequin Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781488233531 $27.99

THE DISAPPEARED
Rebecca J. Sanford
Read by Carolina Hoyos

Carolina Hoyos gives a powerful performance of a parent's worst nightmare. In 1976, Argentina was in the grip of its Dirty War. Lorena Ledesma, a young mother, is kidnapped, leaving her 3-year-old son, Matías, with her mother, Esme. As time passes, Esme covertly meets with the mothers of others who have disappeared. Learning that while imprisoned Lorena gave birth to a daughter, Esme begins a search that lasts three decades. Hoyos conveys the emotions of Argentines who experienced the Dirty War while also portraying the determination and courage of the mothers and grandmothers who sought justice. Hoyos convincingly conveys anxiety, panic, and fear, captivating listeners. She changes accents and nimbly uses English and Spanish when called for. *A.M.*

Blackstone Audio 7.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798212386890 $22.95
(also CD, MP3)
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798212386869 $49.95
(also CD)

IN THE DISTANCE
Hernan Diaz
Read by Alexander Skarsgard


HERNAN DIAZ
FINALIST FOR THE PULITZER PRIZE
IN THE DISTANCE
From the Pulitzer Prize–winning author of TRUST

Narrator Alexander Skarsgard provides the ideal voice for this audiobook. Just as one settles in with what seems like a typical Western, something occurs that reveals there's nothing typical about it. Hakan, a reserved Swede of intimidating size, must navigate a strange country where dangers abound. Skarsgard's gentle tone suggests an innocence glowing halo-like over Hakan. At the same time, a tone of melancholy suggests the folly of that expectation. Skarsgard makes the most of the limited dialogue by going all in on nuances when characters do speak. His performance shines in quiet moments when the audiobook inspires empathy even as it roils with violence and despair. Not for the faint of heart, this story will awaken an appreciation for the better aspects of human nature. *L.B.F.*

Penguin Audio 10.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217016846 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217016853 $95.00

Skarsgard provides the ideal voice for this audiobook.

ROSARITA
Anita Desai
Read by Meera Simhan

With her graceful voice, narrator Meera Simhan shares this short story of self-discovery and secrets. Bonita, a young lady from India who studies Spanish in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, has her world turned upside down when an elderly woman approaches her, claiming to have known her mother. To Bonita's recollection, her mother never traveled to Mexico, let alone studied art, as the woman claims. While Bonita attempts to shrug her off, she can't help but feel drawn to her and what she may learn about her mother. With vocal agility Simhan deftly shifts her tone and accent to realistically narrate diverse characters. Simhan's strength lies in narrating emotionally fraught passages that will move listeners. *A.M.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 2.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668123478 $14.99

MOTHERS AND SONS
Adam Haslett
Read by Andrew Gibson, Janet Metzger

Andrew Gibson and Janet Metzger both give resonant, emotionally compelling performances in this devastating but deeply human novel about secrets, silence, familial legacies, and what it means to live a good life. Gibson voices Peter, a 40-something immigration lawyer in New York City who's spent his adult life using other people's stories of suffering to avoid facing his own past. Metzger voices his mother, Ann, a former Episcopal priest who runs a feminist retreat center in Vermont. Gibson's voice is alluring and polished; he captures the rawness and pain underpinning Peter's seemingly put-together life. Metzger's calm, even narration is just as layered; she portrays the uncertainty and sorrow that lurk beneath Ann's aura of hospitality and warmth. A gorgeous production of a complex and haunting story. *L.S.*

Hachette Audio 11 hrs. Unabridged
Trade: DD ISBN 9781668645161 $27.99

The Empress of Cooke County
a novel
ELIZABETH BASS PARMAN

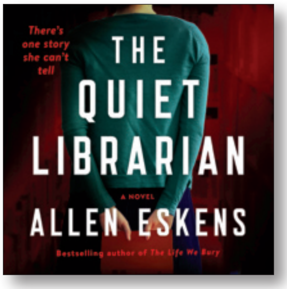
THE EMPRESS OF COOKE COUNTY
Elizabeth Bass Parman
Read by Brittany Pressley

Narrated by the excellent Brittany Pressley, this debut follows Posey Jarvis; her husband, Vern; and their 19-year-old daughter, Callie Jane, who live in 1960s Tennessee. Posey and Vern are in a loveless marriage, and Posey is still pining for a lover who abandoned her years earlier. Callie Jane is unhappily engaged to her childhood friend and dreams of moving to California even though she's expected to run her father's emporium once he retires. When Posey inherits her aunt's dilapidated mansion and agrees to host her high school reunion, she believes her life is finally headed in the right direction. Pressley's depiction of Posey is spot-on, and her phony sweet tone is perfect for the town gossip and the secrets lurking behind everyone's Southern charm. *C.A.P.*

HarperCollins Focus 8 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781400342570 $22.49

THE QUIET LIBRARIAN

Allen Eskens
Read by Ilvana Muratovic


There's one story she can't tell
THE QUIET LIBRARIAN
A NOVEL
ALLEN ESKENS
Bestselling author of The Life We Bury

Narrator Ilvana Muratovic's Bosnian heritage adds power to Eskens's extraordinary historical novel of the 1990s War in Bosnia and its repercussions. Muratovic gives Hana Babic, a Bosnian now living in Minnesota, a subtle accent. It soon becomes clear that Hana's secret past, buried for the last 30 years, threatens to resurface and upend her quiet life. As the story flashes back to Bosnia in the 1990s, Muratovic's accent becomes more pronounced. That part of the story involves Nura Divjak, a 15-year-old girl whose life was upended when war came to her family farm in the mountains of Bosnia. The intertwining of these tales of family, war, revenge, and redemption has powerful lessons we can learn from today. *N.E.M.*

Hachette Audio 8.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668646717 $24.99

THE COIN

Yasmin Zaher
Read by Sarah Agha

Sarah Agha's narration maximizes this exploration of a woman who is grappling with identity, memory, and belonging in New York City. Agha balances these themes while playing up the undercurrent of humor. A Palestinian woman who is acclimating to life in America takes listeners on a journey of displacement, privilege, and personal unraveling. With clarity and depth, Agha conveys the woman's interactions through her unconventional teaching methods at a school for underprivileged children. Riskier schemes include reselling designer handbags. Agha's performance immerses listeners in a story that balances tension and reflection—and offers a compelling portrayal of one woman's quest to reconcile her ideals with an imperfect reality. Will the pace of life in America best our resourceful heroine? Listeners will enjoy finding out. *M.R.*

Brilliance Audio 6 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781511315869 $35.99

THE BOOKSTORE KEEPERS: Once Upon a Time Bookshop, Book 3

Alice Hoffman
Read by Jennifer Jill Araya

In this third and final installment in Alice Hoffman's Once Upon a Time Bookshop Stories, series narrator Jennifer Jill Araya continues her top-notch narration of a heartfelt story of family, love, and independence. Five years after the Gibson sisters stopped speaking to one another, they're back on Brinkley's Island, Maine, once again running the family bookstore. When Isabel's husband, Johnny, wakes from a disturbing dream, their world is tipped off its axis. Johnny's intense grieving process allows the sisters to grow closer as they offer him support. Hoffman's insightful prose sounds like poetry, and Araya delivers full-bodied flesh-and-blood characterizations. Because the family backstory would make character motivations clearer, listeners are encouraged to hear the other two excellent short stories in the series. *S.J.H.*

Brilliance Audio 1 hr. Unabridged
Trade: ISBN 9781501243158 $2.84

THE HEART OF WINTER

Jonathan Evison
Read by Kimberly Farr

jonathan evison
the heart of winter
A Novel

In a warm, comforting voice, award-winning narrator Kimberly Farr brings this epic love story to life, giving full attention and spirit to each character. Farr's voices are easily distinguishable, and each one is perfectly suited to the person portrayed. Abe and Ruth Winter met on a blind date in college in the 1950s and moved through the ups and downs of marriage, children, relocation, debilitating illness, and family tragedies. Farr keeps the pace steady with excellent acting that evokes all the emotion without melodrama. Farr even ages the characters in her portrayals. Listeners will find that Evison's novel is enriched by her narration. *C.F.*

Penguin Audio 13.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593947432 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593947449 $95.00

> *Farr brings this epic love story to life.*

I MADE IT OUT OF CLAY

Beth Kander
Read by Gail Shalan

Gail Shalan's narration provides a lighthearted tone to Beth Kander's clever and insightful story, which will allow listeners to empathize with her protagonist and enjoy this take on the difficulties of grief. Eve is overwhelmed with her life, dealing with worries about potential layoffs at work; her upcoming 40th birthday, which will coincide with her younger sister's wedding; and the grief she feels at losing two beloved family members, something she can't share with her remaining family. She never imagines that her need for protection will cause her to create a golem who slowly causes problems that outweigh his good looks. Shalan's success at providing emotions and accents for the characters, including the monster, effectively brings them to life. *E.J.F.*

Harlequin Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781488231605 $27.99

THE ISLANDERS

Lewis Robinson
Read by Evan Sibley

Set on an island off the coast of Maine, this compelling coming-of-age novel captures the listener's attention. Evan Sibley performs this audiobook with narrative drive, a convincing tone, and a sure sense of the unfolding drama. The setting is a posh but remote club on fictional Whaleback Island—just the place to retrain young misfits to work hard on land and sea to please the billionaires who have founded this Outward Bound-style experience to fight against the "soft" youths of today. The skillfully written narrative benefits from the appealing young characters, especially the bright protagonist Walt McNamara, a former standout hockey goalie who loves poetry and has a romantic soul. *A.D.M.*

Vibrance Press 10.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798890930828 $19.95
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798890930828 $29.95

TARTUFO

Kira Jane Buxton
Read by Caroline Hewitt

Narrator Caroline Hewitt immerses listeners in the colorful life of the quirky, vibrant, and slowly dying Italian village of Lazzarini Boscarino. Hewitt brings warmth and wit to the contrasting moods of the villagers, who range from the disgruntled Mayor Delizia Miccuci to the stubborn locals at Bar Celebrità. Her expressive voice adapts to the plot, particularly as a powerful truffle is discovered, stirring hope for the community's renaissance. Hewitt enhances the theme of interconnectedness that defines this story. She captures the charm, frustration, and humor of the eccentric residents, making for a lively listening experience. *M.R.*

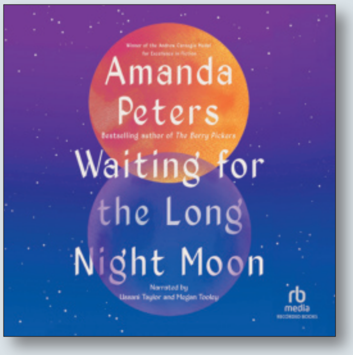
Hachette Audio 11.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668646045 $27.99

MORE REVIEWS

Exclusive Web-Only Fiction Reviews
audiofilemagazine.com

WAITING FOR THE LONG NIGHT MOON: Stories

Amanda Peters
Read by Megan Tooley, Ussani Taylor


Amanda Peters
Waiting for the Long Night Moon
Narrated by Ussani Taylor and Megan Tooley
rb media

Megan Tooley and Ussani Taylor deliver moving performances of Amanda Peters's short stories, which explore the Indigenous experience throughout American history. Peters, author of *The Berry Pickers*, writes about such disparate people as a girl who is witnessing the arrival of the first white settlers and a boy who is struggling in a Christian boarding school. Tooley performs most of the stories, using a sweet lilting voice, gentle delivery, and subtle shading of personality to help listeners delight in a girl's first traditional dance and be brave during a group's environmental protest. Taylor, who reads four deeply moving, emotionally difficult pieces, gives a tough and perceptive performance, lowering his vocal register and flattening his tone to portray Native boys and men hanging tough during systemic injustice. Together, they create an important listening experience. *A.C.S.*

Recorded Books 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798895940464 $24.99 (also CD, MP3)

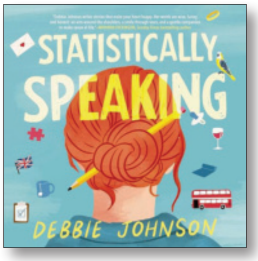
Together, the narrators create an important listening experience.

THE IN-BETWEEN BOOKSTORE

Edward Underhill
Read by Shaan Dasani

Shaan Dasani's engaging performance captures all the tumultuous emotions Darby experiences upon returning to his Illinois hometown for the first time since he transitioned and came out. Adrift and unmoored, he discovers a portal in the bookstore he used to work at that allows him to talk to his teenage self. Dasani's voice moves between exasperation, confusion, pent-up anger, and tenderness as Darby navigates complicated relationships with his mother, his former best friend, and his younger self. The plot relies heavily on characters refusing to talk to each other, but it's nonetheless a warm and charming story about the many ways queer and trans people create homes and find belonging. *L.S.*

HarperAudio 9.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063357662 $27.99



STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

Debbie Johnson
Read by Louise Williams

Louise Williams gives just the right snarky delivery of a woman's attempt to find her place in the world. Gemma gave up the baby she had when she was 16. Now an adult teaching history at a college, she never stops thinking of "Baby"—the only name she gave her daughter. Her students are about the same age as Baby would be, and Williams brings truth to Gemma's longing, especially when she meets a young woman who shares the same birthdate as her child and looks the way she thinks her daughter might look at 18. With candid comments about life and love, expectations and reality, Williams gives a full-bodied performance as Gemma reminds herself how well she's managed despite the obstacles. Excellent listening. *S.J.H.*

HarperCollins Focus 9.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781400248100 $2.72

LAZARUS MAN
Richard Price
Read by Robb Moreira

Novelist Richard Price has as fine an ear for American speech as anyone writing today, and his panoramic novels have tested the skill of a string of fine audiobook narrators. His latest, revolving around the collapse of an apartment building in East Harlem in 1982, moves from one character to another—a photographer, a policewoman, an undertaker, and the Lazarus Man of the title, who is found trapped but uninjured in the rubble near the very end of the search. The narrative moves slowly and without a clear objective; this is not one of Price's best. But it's rendered effectively by narrator Robb Moreira, who has an excellent feel for the characters, their voices and emotional centers. He infuses even the slackest scenes with immediacy and purpose. *D.A.W.*

LAZARUS MAN
A Novel
RICHARD PRICE

Macmillan Audio 11.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250353948 $26.99 (also CD)

BEHIND EVERY GOOD MAN
Sara Goodman Confino
Read by Helen Laser

Listeners will have a grand time with Helen Laser's vibrant narration of this lively audiobook about a modern woman who is navigating the political scene in 1962 Washington, DC. After catching her husband, Larry, cheating with his secretary, 27-year-old Beverly Diamond decides that going to work will allow her independence from Larry while she is divorcing him. Beverly, the daughter of a former congressman, approaches Michael Landau, a newcomer running for the U.S. Senate, offering her services as a political advisor. The twist is that Larry is the campaign manager for the incumbent rival senator. Laser magnificently crafts each strong-willed character, including feisty Beverly and her opinionated mother. Laser skillfully conveys the early '60s zeitgeist, especially the changing roles of women. *M.J.*

Brilliance Audio 9 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781511303057 $35.99

THE UNBECOMING OF MARGARET WOLF
Isa Arsén
Read by Saskia Maarleveld, Isa Arsén

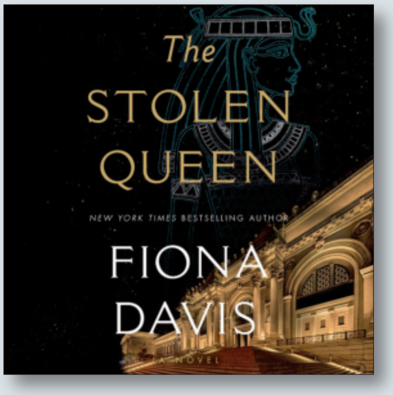
Saskia Maarleveld gives an impressive performance of this audiobook set in the 1950s theater worlds of New York City and New Mexico. Maarleveld splendidly portrays the unsettled persona of Margaret Wolf, who flees a difficult life to follow her dream of becoming a Shakespearean actress. Maarleveld skillfully balances Margaret's histrionic tendencies with the sadness she experiences in her personal and professional lives, especially when she marries Wesley, a closeted gay actor. The two join a production in New Mexico, where each begins a sexual relationship with a magnetic costume designer named Felix. Maarleveld evokes the atmosphere of the theater and conveys a time in which conformity was the norm. Those who enjoy a psychological bent to their stories will appreciate Maarleveld's polished performance. *M.J.*

Penguin Audio 10 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593944271 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593944288 $76.00

> *"I love performing dual points of view, and getting to move through this world as Charlotte and Annie, with their different perspectives and strengths and vulnerabilities, was incredibly satisfying."*
> —Narrator Linda Jones

Photo by Jordan Matter Photography

THE STOLEN QUEEN
Fiona Davis
Read by Linda Jones



Charlotte Cross is an assistant curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City in 1978. She's quietly conducting Egyptology research that harkens back to her only experience in Egypt, which took place before WWII. Linda Jones's excellent narration reflects Charlotte's ambivalence: She's determined to prove her controversial theory about an Egyptian ruler but fearful of returning to Cairo and reliving her devastating experience of 1936. Young student Annie—voiced by Jones with charming yet annoying naïveté—is assigned to help Charlotte organize the Met Gala display, featuring a priceless Egyptian necklace. When an artifact is stolen, the two women travel to Egypt to pursue the thief and to prove Charlotte's hypothesis. Narrating the rich descriptions of the Valley of the Kings, Jones brings Cairo to life. *N.M.C.*

Penguin Audio 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593944011 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593944028 $95.00

GRANDDAUGHTER

Bernhard Schlink,
Charlotte Collins [Trans.]
Read by Richard Burnip,
Sarah Moule

Bernhard Schlink's new novel is an exceptional audiobook. The nuanced portrayals of the characters come through remarkably well for listeners. Both Richard Burnip and Sarah Moule are fine narrators who perform with an impeccable tempo, pace, and cadence. The mysterious plot concerns a Berlin bookseller, Kaspar, who engineered his wife Birgit's escape from East Germany 40 years earlier. Now an unhappy alcoholic, Birgit drowns in their bathtub. Afterward, Kaspar finds her memoir, which reveals that she had given birth to a daughter whom she gave away at birth Kaspar seeks her out and discovers that she and her husband are neo-Nazis. His relationship with his ultra-nationalist granddaughter occupies much of the second half of the story. Schlink masterfully reveals the complexity of a reunified Germany. *A.D.M.*

Harper Audio 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063295261 $27.99

BIG CHIEF

Jon Hickey
Read by Shaun Taylor-Corbett

Loss haunts this powerful story of politics, corruption, and loyalty. Narrator Shaun Taylor-Corbett continues his fine work with Indigenous authors. He performs this debut novel with just the right tone, style, and tempo. He voices the angsty Mitch Caddo with a sure sense of his conflicted life as a "fixer" for the fictional Passage Rouge Nation. An outsider with an Ivy League law degree, Caddo works with his childhood friend, now tribal president, Mack Beck. The plot revolves around the days just before a tribal election when issues arise involving tribal membership and past suspect business dealings. Matters overheat, and violence occurs. Taylor-Corbett delivers the dialogue with restraint and intelligence and is masterful in bringing this compelling novel to life. *A.D.M.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 10 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797184616 $25.99

Taylor-Corbett is masterful in bringing this compelling novel to life.

BEFORE WE FORGET KINDNESS: Before the Coffee Gets Cold, Book 5

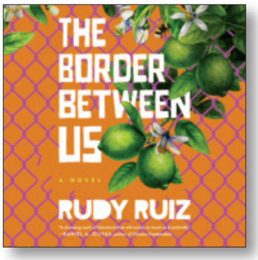
Toshikazu Kawaguchi
Read by Kevin Shen

Kevin Shen's narration brings warmth and emotional depth to an ensemble of characters. Through his performance, the interconnected stories of a café's visitors unfold with clarity and resonance. Shen's delivery captures the quiet urgency of each character's desire to revisit their past—while adhering to the café's unique rules. The individual struggles range from a father's grappling with regret to a woman's yearning for an unspoken connection, a boy's longing to bring his parents joy, and a mother's seeking of solace. Shen balances the poignancy and hopefulness of these stories, reflecting their universal themes of reconciliation and moving forward. His pacing and tone immerse listeners in the timeless atmosphere of the café, enriching the tale and offering soothing and reflective listening. *M.R.*

Harlequin Audio 5.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781488231674 $21.99

THE BORDER BETWEEN US

Rudy Ruiz
Read by Eddie Lopez



Narrator Eddie Lopez uses his impressive vocal talents to explore the emotional, often tense, relationship between Ramón and his father. Beginning in 1977, the novel follows Ramón as he grows up, often clashing with his demanding, quixotic dad. Living in Brownsville, Texas, the family straddles the physical and cultural border of the U.S. and Mexico. Ramón, wanting more, moves to New York City to become an artist, with his father's reluctant support. Lopez displays vocal agility, altering his tone and timbre to portray the youthful Ramón and his mature father. Lopez shines as he portrays all the characters in English and Spanish, using accents and vocal agility to convey a wide range of emotions in this powerful story of a boy becoming a man. *A.M.*

Blackstone Audio 9 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD ISBN 9798212545686 $39.95
(also MP3, DD)

THE RIVETER

Jack Wang
Read by Feodor Chin

Set in Canada and Europe during WWII, this moving debut novel tells the story of Josiah Chang, a Canadian logger/riveter of Chinese ancestry. With precision and a clear tone, Feodor Chin recounts Chang's challenges, in particular his love for Poppy, his co-worker at a Vancouver shipyard. Chin is an accomplished narrator who convincingly voices Englishmen and Southern Americans. Oddly, he doesn't deliver the Canadian accent of the western provinces, where much of the action occurs. This is a war novel (Josiah is a heroic paratrooper), a love story (Josiah and Poppy flout convention), and an indictment of restrictive laws on race. Meticulously researched and well written. *A.D.M.*

Harper Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063081864 $19.95 (also CD)

The more people are stranded on vacation, jumping into random stagecoaches, or investigating murders, the more I'm sure I want the audiobook version of the story. There's something about the high-energy, high-stakes nature of adventure fiction that makes me want to hear every adrenaline-soaked minute. These new titles combine adventure and romance in different permutations, with narrations that range from dreamy to fast paced so the listener doesn't miss a single moment of the action, or the happily-ever-after. Go on a tour of Vietnam in *Adam & Evie's Matchmaking Tour*, with narration from Ewan Chung and Viet Thanh Nguyen. As two singles approach a matchmaking tour with opposite strategies, every part of the trip is an opportunity for discovery. Chung and Nguyen's familiarity with the Vietnamese language elevates the audio. In *The Jewel of the Isle*, a deliciously madcap outdoor adventure, narrators Andrew Eiden and Emily Lawrence will have listeners laughing and flinching from peril in equal measure. *The Duke at Hazard* has a similar traveling-adventure motif with a more tender tone, delivered by narrator Cornell Collins. Buckle your seatbelt before playing these adventure romances—you'll be on the edge of your seat with all of them. Love your listening.—*Caitlin Augusta*

Find more Tease online at
audiofilemagazine.com/articles

ADAM & EVIE'S MATCHMAKING TOUR

Nora Nguyen
Read by Ewan Chung, Viet Thanh Nguyen

ADAM & EVIE'S MATCHMAKING TOUR
A Novel
NORA NGUYEN

Narrators Ewan Chung and Viet Thanh Nguyen deliver sweet performances in this contemporary romance. Evie is fired by her secret boyfriend and feels hopelessly stuck until she receives a letter from her beloved late aunt. She is sent on a matchmaking tour of Vietnam, where she meets the skeptical Adam. This romance has a strong foundation built on Evie's enthusiastic search for adventure and Adam's ambivalence toward falling in love. The performances play out like a movie. Both Chung and Nguyen deliver authentic narrations as Adam learns how to have fun and let loose and Evie works on becoming more serious about her life. Both narrators offer raw yet entertaining deliveries, and experiencing the two opposites come together is magical. *G.M.*

Harper Audio 10.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063381520 $27.99

A CLEVER ALLIANCE

Laura Beers
Read by Sasha Higgins

A Clever Alliance
a Regency Romance by
LAURA BEERS

Sasha Higgins's sparkling narration transports listeners to Regency-era England in this enchanting historical romance. After the death of her parents, 18-year-old Lady Madalene Ramsbury's uncle promises her to an unscrupulous lord. Maddy, who wants to marry for love, flees her engagement party, hopping into the passing carriage of Everett, the Marquess of Northampton. As the pair spend time together, they hatch a plan for a fake engagement. With her light, flexible intonation and charming English accents, Higgins fully inhabits this large cast of mainly British aristocrats. Her pacing mirrors the mood of every scene, including gatherings at stately homes and intimate conversations between Maddy, Everett, and their supportive friends. A charming and lively historical romance. *M.J.*

Dreamscape 6.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781666685794 $20.00

THE DUKE AT HAZARD

KJ Charles
Read by Cornell Collins

The Duke at Hazard
KJ CHARLES

Cornell Collins excels at performing both the thrill of the chase and the moments of quiet intimacy in this queer historical romance. The unassuming Duke of Severn decided to do something bold—sadly, his one-night stand with a strange man led to robbery. He decides to search for his stolen ring incognito but finds navigating his quest as Mr. Cassian daunting. He then decides to enlist the help of a disreputable but friendly gentleman, Daizell Charnage, a decision that leads to a terrifying stagecoach ride, a kidnapping, an elopement—and many cozy nights sharing a bed. Each character comes alive in Collins's enthusiastic narration, and he perfectly captures the sweetly blossoming romance between Daizell and Severn—though Daizell doesn't know he's falling for a duke in disguise. *E.E.C.*

Orion 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781398715806 $18.15

I DID SOMETHING BAD

Pyae Moe Thet War
Read by Jacqui Bardelang

"A thrill-packed emotional roller coaster of a ride. I loved it." —CLARE POOLEY, New York Times bestselling author
I DID SOMETHING BAD
PYAE MOE THET WAR

Jacqui Bardelang's narration plays up the various elements in this rom-com, which turns into a murder cover-up. Journalist Khin Haymar is sent to secure an exclusive interview with Tyler Tun, a reclusive movie star who is filming in Myanmar. Bardelang's delivery captures Khin's determination and increasing inner conflict as she balances her journalistic ambition and her growing attraction to her subject. Bardelang conveys Khin's vulnerability and grit when Tyler steps in to defend her—at his own expense. Bardelang also brings depth to Tyler's guarded demeanor, allowing his gradual opening up to be authentic and compelling. Her portrayal captures the characters' shifting dynamics, immersing listeners in Khin's internal struggles. Listeners will be rooting for the unlikely couple. *M.R.*

Macmillan Audio 11.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250366597 $26.99
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250399892 $79.99

THE JEWEL OF THE ISLE

Kerry Rea
Read by Andrew Eiden, Emily Lawrence

The JEWEL of the ISLE
KERRY REA

Emily Lawrence and Andrew Eiden delight listeners in this heartfelt, hilarious romantic comedy. When Emily Edwards decides to fulfill her late father's bucket list by visiting a remote island, she hires a tour guide to help with her lack of outdoor experience. Ryder Fleet isn't a wilderness expert, but he needs some money to preserve his brother's memory and his adventure business. Thrown together, these two don't expect to encounter a jewel hunt mixed with murder. Lawrence's lively tone portrays Emily's reluctance to trust Ryder and her love for her father. Eiden's warm, playful voice adds to Ryder's quirky, determined persona. Both narrators' nuanced deliveries of witty banter and emotional conversations will have listeners hooked until the end. *J.J.M.*

Penguin Audio 8.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593911648 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593911655 $76.00

REMEMBER ME TOMORROW

Farah Heron
Read by Soneela Nankani

FARAH HERON
REMEMBER ME TOMORROW
A NOVEL

Soneela Nankani will keep listeners glued to their earbuds with her narration of this intriguing mystery. When first-year journalism student Aleeza Kassam moves out of her former best friend's dorm, the only room available on campus is where Jay Hoque used to live before he went missing five months earlier. Odder still, Aleeza and Jay are able to message each other. As Aleeza uses her journalism skills to try to save Jay, a budding romance makes the case personal. Nankani's choice not to use Indian accents for Aleeza, Jay, and their families reflects the second-generation Canadian experience. The text calls for her to voice mostly college students, a few of whom are privileged and snotty. A gripping listen! *S.S.*

Brilliance Audio 10.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 97815012-6934-9 $42.99

Romance Preview

KENNEDY RYAN
Can't Get Enough: Skyland, Book 3
Read by Wesleigh Siobhan, Jakobi Diem

Hendrix lives life on her terms until she is courted by tech mogul Maverick Bell.

Contemporary

Hachette Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Release date: May 13

KATHERINE CENTER
The Love Haters
Read by Patti Murin

Katie's video production gig goes sideways when she lies about being able to swim to a Coast Guard rescue swimmer.

Contemporary

Macmillan Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Release date: May 20

MIMI MATTHEWS
Rules for Ruin: The Crinoline Academy, Book 1
Reader TBA

A secret institution sends an agent to take down a misogynistic viscount, but she faces opposition—and attraction—from a London bookmaker.

Historical

Penguin Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Release date: May 20

ALEXIS DARIA
Along Came Amor: Primas of Power, Book 3
Read by Seraphine Valentine

Ava and Roman agree on a fling, until that's not enough for either of them.

Contemporary

Harper Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Release date: May 27

MAE MARVEL
If I Told You, I'd Have to Kiss You
Read by Mia Hutchinson-Shaw

Yardley and K.C. both have secret identities—will the two women's hush-hush jobs split them apart, or will an undercover assignment seal the deal?

Suspense

Macmillan Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Release date: June 10

HER KNIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Bryn Donovan
Read by Brittany Pressley

Brittany Pressley narrates a fun time-travel romance set in Chicago. Recently divorced museum conservator Emily Porter is startled to hear a voice in her head, and even more startled when a statue of Sir Griffin de Beauford comes to life. Pressley captures the humor inherent in the fish-out-of-water elements of Griffin's experiences as a knight from 1428 who has been transported almost 600 years into the future. Pressley also excels at delivering Emily's exasperation while trying to explain the 21st century to him. While Emily and Griffin have undeniable chemistry, Pressley deftly recounts the histories of emotional betrayals they both must overcome before they can attain their happily-ever-after. These emotional nuances lend an unexpected measure of realism to her narration. *K.M.P.*

Penguin Audio 10.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593943779 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593943786 $85.50

🎧 THE SOUND OF US

Sarah Castille
Read by Lila Winters, Thomas Oakley

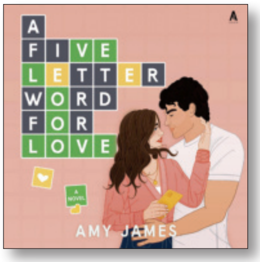
Narrators Lila Winters and Thomas Oakley are a winning combo in this performance. Skye is down on her luck when her dream of having a career in basketball implodes and her life becomes more complicated after meeting local radio host Dante. As two reluctant romantics relearn how to go after the things they want in their lives, the passionate narrators create raw performances. Both Winters and Oakley have their individual cadences and styles, but they both approach their characters in a sensual way, making their personalities clear. Listeners will become enamored with the characters' fire as they chase their dreams and each other. *G.M.*

Macmillan Audio 11.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250367228 $26.99

🎧 A FIVE-LETTER WORD FOR LOVE

Amy James
Read by Katie Koster

Katie Koster will charm a wide audience with this fun romantic performance. Wordle enthusiast Emily daydreams at her dead-end job as a receptionist at a car shop. When her car's alternator dies, her co-worker, John, comes to her rescue, and the bland mechanic suddenly becomes interesting when he shares his own enjoyment of Wordle. Koster offers an authentic narration of this unexpected romance. She does an outstanding job depicting the anxious thoughts we all experience as they are embodied in Emily. Those seeking weak-in-the-knees romantic moments will be rewarded as John and Emily get to know each other better. This classic romance about not judging a book by its cover is expertly performed. *G.M.*



Harper Audio 9.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063399037 $27.99

> *"The sheer joy to be so drastically sarcastically British and in a hilarious and beautifully touching queer story, I mean . . . chef's kiss."*
> —Narrator Steve West

🎧 SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY: Something Fabulous, Book 3

Alexis Hall
Read by Ell Potter, Steve West

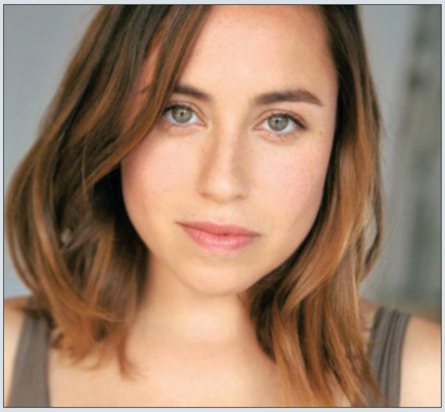
USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF BOYFRIEND MATERIAL
ALEXIS HALL
Something Extraordinary

Narrators Ell Potter and Steve West are a dynamic duo escorting listeners through a bombastic adventure. Despite being gay, Sir Horley has pledged to marry a lovely woman, but his best friend, Arabella, won't have it. As Arabella whisks Horley away on his wedding night, their unbreakable bond is tested against silly challenges and the cold, hard truths that come with being queer in Regency England. Potter and West's elegant tones make their expressive narrations all the more amusing. This fun listen features a long-lasting love between two charming friends. An absorbing narration for a wide audience. *G.M.*

Brilliance Audio 14.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781511344906 $42.99

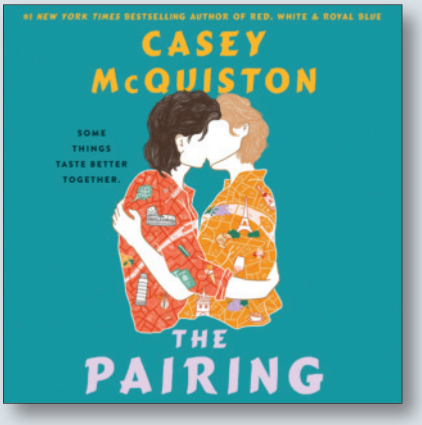
🎧 Exceptional Audio 🎙 Podcast Episode ▶ Videos Online CD Compact Disc MP3 MP3-CD DD Digital Download PRE Preloaded Media

> *"It's truly a pleasure when the writing is so lush and the characters so rich, it makes my job feel like play. Such a treat to also play a queer character; how refreshing! The accents kicked my butt though!"*
> —Narrator Emma Galvin



THE PAIRING

Casey McQuiston
Read by Emma Galvin, Max Meyers


#1 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF RED, WHITE & ROYAL BLUE
CASEY McQUISTON
SOME THINGS TASTE BETTER TOGETHER.
THE PAIRING

Emma Galvin and Max Meyers voice the perspectives of sommelier-in-training Theo Flowerday and French pastry chef Kit Fairfield. The two bisexual exes have met up by chance on a three-week food tour of France, Spain, and Italy. This tour de force of accents and vocal work is a testament to Galvin and Meyers's skills. Any scene can require a half dozen international accents belonging to characters with varying moods and personalities. Galvin complements Theo's tomboyish character with a brash yet flirty register, while Meyers chooses a theatrical lilt for a more earnest-sounding Kit. They even echo each other's voices for dialogue from the same character, such as the charismatic tour guide Fabrizio. A true feast of vocal work and culinary descriptions! *S.S.* **2024 Best Audiobook**

Macmillan Audio 14.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250348616 $32.99

CLEAN POINT: Game, Set, and Match, Book 1

Meg Jones
Read by Mary Jane Wells, Patrick Zeller

A duet narration by Mary Jane Wells and Patrick Zeller as tennis doubles partners Scottie Sinclair and Nico Kotas is double the fun for listeners. Wells digs into Scottie's fall from grace after a Wimbledon win and her personal struggles over her worldwide notoriety. Wells manages to craft Scottie's persona as spunky yet traumatized; she reveals a deep sense of fairness overlaid with wicked humor as Scottie mocks her new practice partner, Nico. Zeller portrays Nico as surly, battle weary, and highly intrigued by Scottie as their initial antagonism softens to respect and an intimate relationship. Their dual narration becomes a duet narration in the intimate scenes, and the shifts are seamless. The high-stakes matches, combined with emotionally realistic narration, make for a winning combination. *C.A.*

Harper Audio 11.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063429741 $27.99

ONE ON ONE

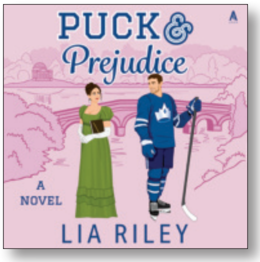
Jamie Harrow
Read by Kyla Garcia

Narrator Kyla Garcia delivers a slam dunk in this fun contemporary romance. Annie takes a new job with her college's basketball team, which she left in the dust during her senior year and no one knows why. While she's uneasy about taking the position, her co-worker, charming former classmate and teammate Ben, makes her anxiety even worse. The focus of Garcia's performance is the grudge between Annie and Ben and the mystery of why Annie left the team; both of these are delivered well. Garcia's skill at depicting the buildup between Annie and Ben maintains listeners' curiosity about what happened. Amusing dialogue and dynamic characters make this an intriguing listen. *G.M.*

Random House Audio 11 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593915516 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593915523 $95.00

PUCK AND PREJUDICE

Lia Riley
Read by Will Damron



Narrator Will Damron brings humor and wit to a time-traveling story featuring a hockey player who lands in 1812 England and the Regency-era miss who finds him. When Lizzy Wooddash gets over her shock at finding a huge man floundering in an icy pond who claims he's from the future, she finds herself with the perfect opportunity: Marry the hulking Tucker Taylor to protect her reputation, and then help him return to his own time. Lizzy can then become fully independent as a widow. Alas, on their way to Gretna Green the fish-out-of-water Tucker and bookish Lizzie find they have more in common than their different eras and personalities would suggest. Hijinks and swoons brought to life by Will Damron make this an exciting romp for listeners. *B.A.G.*

Harper Audio 9.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063412347 $27.99

PRETTY DEAD THINGS
Lilian West
Read by Devon Sorvari

Award-winning Devon Sorvari uses all her considerable narration talents to bring to life this story about a small town with big secrets. Cora, an affable but rather bland heroine, finds wedding rings in a jar of baubles she buys at an estate sale and seeks to find their owners. This is a dual-timeline mystery, and listeners are pulled back to 1953, a story of forbidden love, and the mystery of what happened to Clarity, a member of a prominent family. While the pace of the narrative is slow and encumbered by many lackluster similes, the story itself is interesting and the ending suspenseful. Sorvari convincingly presents the passions of the characters in a voice that is steady and balanced. *D.L.G.*

PRETTY
DEAD
THINGS
a mystery
LILIAN WEST
READ BY DEVON SORVARI
rb media

Tantor Media 8.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798855594980 $19.99

GABRIEL'S MOON
William Boyd
Read by George Blagden

George Blagden offers a winning performance of travel writer Gabriel Dax, who finds himself a pawn in a game he never expected to find himself playing. Not long after Gabriel's interview with Congolese Prime Minister Patrice Lumumba, she is killed. A series of strange coincidences occurs, and suddenly Gabriel is reluctantly up to his neck in spy craft. MI6, the CIA, and mysterious others are desperate for Lumumba's taped interview. Blagden delivers a not-so-naïve Gabriel, who frequently manages to outsmart the professionals. Blagden highlights Gabriel's inner world through his relationships with his colleagues, the women in his life, and his sessions with his therapist, which take him back to the traumatic fire he escaped when he was 6. Blagden's absorbing narration enhances this well-written audiobook. *S.J.H.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668132357 $25.99

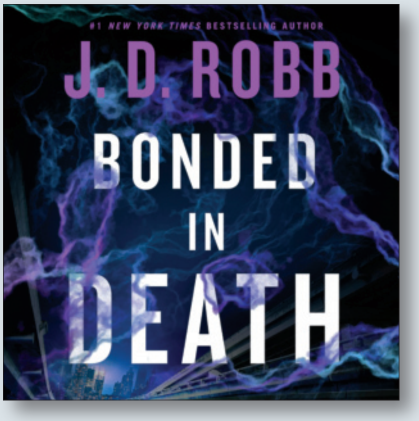
KNIFE SKILLS FOR BEGINNERS:
May Contain Murder, Book 1
Orlando Murrin
Read by Sebastian Humphreys

Sebastian Humphreys delivers an enthusiastic performance of a delightful cast of characters in this mystery. Chef Paul Delamare steps in as a culinary teacher to help his injured friend, celebrity chef Christian Wagner, and finds himself in the middle of a kitchen disaster. Humphreys's warm, pleasant voice and English accent pair perfectly with Paul's empathetic personality. Showcasing excellent accent skills, Humphreys voices each of the culinary students with a distinct personality. Paul's students range in ability and age, making his inexperience as a teacher even more palpable. When Christian is found brutally murdered, Paul and his students are natural suspects. To clear his name, Paul must use his expertise and observation skills in this witty culinary mystery. *C.R.*

Recorded Books 9 hrs. Unabridged
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798894867403 $31.49
(also CD, MP3)

> *"After 60 books I still find myself bursting into laughter or getting choked up while reading a scene between these characters, who are, by now, dear friends."*
> —Narrator Susan Ericksen

BONDED IN DEATH:
In Death, Book 60
J.D. Robb
Read by Susan Ericksen



Eve Dallas has trouble finding out who Giovanni Rossi really was, why he was killed, and how. Susan Ericksen's portrayal of the tough-as-nails Dallas proves she hasn't lost her appetite for this futuristic suspense series. She projects Dallas as her snippy, sarcastic self. And now her family is being threatened. Her husband's majordomo, Summerset and Giovanni were two of the 12 undercover agents in the Urban Wars resistance. Now one of the remaining agents is attempting to kill the rest. Ericksen's crackerjack delivery of Eastern European, Irish, and English accents drives her performance to a fever pitch as Dallas races to find out who the murderer is. The energy and artistry Ericksen puts into her presentation make for an exciting listen. *E.E.S.*

Macmillan Audio 13.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250377777 $26.99 (also CD)
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250377784 $39.99

A SEA OF UNSPOKEN THINGS

Adrienne Young
Read by Christine Lakin

Christine Lakin performs this atmospheric mystery set in a small town in Northern California. When James receives a call that her twin brother, Johnny, has unexpectedly died, she travels from San Francisco to her tiny hometown to take care of his affairs. Upon arrival, she begins to suspect that Johnny's death may not have been an accident. Lakin's soothing voice captures the mood of the expansive, quiet forests in the region. As James investigates her brother's death, Lakin's performance matches the rising tension in the story. With every twist and turn, Lakin's narration keeps listeners' attention. *K.D.W.*

Random House Audio 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593787373 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593787380 $95.00

DEATH IN THE DOWNLINE

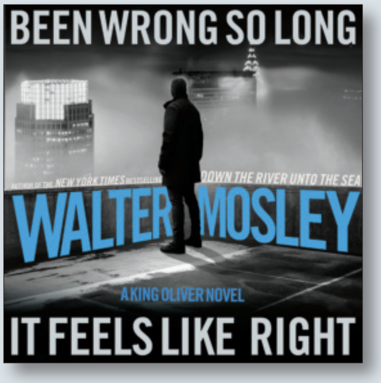
Maria Abrams
Read by Megan Tusing,
Mia Hutchinson-Shaw

Narrators Megan Tusing and Mia Hutchinson-Shaw draw listeners into the glamorous world of multilevel marketing in this mystery novel. Drew, an unemployed journalist, has moved home and is desperate for connection. When her old friend Steph invites her to coffee, Drew is sucked into Steph's world of LuminUs, a multilevel marketing company. After things turn dark at a conference, it's up to Drew to uncover what's going on. Hutchinson-Shaw provides the main narration, giving an emotional, dynamic performance. Tusing provides an authoritative narration of news articles and podcast segments. Listeners will feel Drew's fear as she digs for clues. Balancing humor and seriousness, this novel is a cautionary tale about combining friendship and finances. *C.R.*

Blackstone Audio 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798874727093 $22.95
(also CD, MP3)
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798874727086 $54.95
(also CD)

BEEN WRONG SO LONG IT FEELS LIKE RIGHT: King Oliver, Book 3

Walter Mosley
Read by Dion Graham



Dion Graham continues his stellar work with Mosley's Joe King Oliver series, bringing heart and rough edges in equal measure. Here, the private investigator's Grandma B has a dying wish: Locate her long-missing son. Oliver's complicated relationship with his father is heightened as the search brings new insights into the man. Meanwhile, Oliver struggles with his own ethics as he protects a woman and child from a dangerous but powerful business magnate. Graham, in top form, captures the grit of this New York City noir, embodying the wide cast of suspects, cops, and confidants. His delivery is so vivid it's cinematic. *S.P.C.*

Hachette Audio 8 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668639573 $24.99

Graham, in top form, captures the grit of this New York City noir.

THE LOST HOUSE

Melissa Larsen
Read by Saskia Maarleveld

The Lost House
A NOVEL
MELISSA LARSEN

Saskia Maarleveld narrates this story of generational sins and salvation. Agnes is the American granddaughter of an Icelandic man who fled his homeland amid accusations of murder. She travels to Iceland in an attempt to uncover details of her family's past and becomes entangled in the current disappearance of a young woman. Maarleveld anchors her nuanced performance in Agnes's emotional and physical pain as she searches for decades-old answers while wrestling with grief and a recent injury. Maarleveld creates a voice that is both determined and fragile. She employs a light touch with her portrayals of the Icelandic people Agnes befriends, making their accented English distinctive but not exaggerated. Even when the plot sags in the middle, Maarleveld's engaging narration maintains listener interest. *N.M.*

Macmillan Audio 10 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250384874 $26.99

THE NAMING OF THE BIRDS

Paraic O'Donnell
Read by Charles Armstrong

In the second Inspector Cutter/Sergeant Bliss mystery, the mood is bleak, and Charles Armstrong's performance is irresistible. After a murdered civil servant is found clutching a child's bone, Cutter, Bliss, and journalist Octavia Hillingdon begin an investigation that shakes their faith in humanity. More brutal murders of civil servants occur, seemingly connected to an asylum fire that killed 36 children years before. With careful objectivity, Armstrong delivers stories of hideous abuse and murder at the asylum. When needed, his rich baritone morphs into the softer, whispery voice of Nightingale, a survivor who experienced it all firsthand. Armstrong's handling of the final stream-of-consciousness revelations is outstanding. Series fans won't be disappointed. *S.J.H.*

HighBridge Audio 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781696607902 $19.99

Talking with Author Dervla McTiernan

> *"If you've got a really strong narrator that you can trust, you can just relax and go with the story."*

Photo by Nathalie Marquez Courtney

By Ellen Quint

▶ Author Dervla McTiernan's writing space in Perth, Australia, features a neatly arranged wall of colorful Post-it notes behind her. If proof was ever needed that McTiernan is a planner rather than a pantser, there it is: her storyboard, her outline, the blueprint for her next novel.

McTiernan's newest release, *The Unquiet Grave*—the fourth book in her Cormac Reilly series—will be published in May, with Aoife McMahon returning as the narrator. She recalled the process of selecting a narrator for *The Ruin*, the first book in the series and her debut novel. Initially presented with four or five options, most of whom were male, she felt none were quite right. Determined to find the perfect voice, she listened to every Irish-narrated audiobook she could find, eventually discovering Aoife McMahon. Nervous but hopeful, she asked her editor if they could secure McMahon for the narration. Now, four audiobooks later, Aoife McMahon has become the definitive voice of the series.

For her recent stand-alones, *What Happened to Nina?* and *The Murder Rule*, McTiernan opted for multiple narrators. However, she admitted she generally prefers a single narrator as it allows listeners to fully immerse themselves in the story. “If you’ve got a really strong narrator that you can trust, you can just relax and go with the story,” she explained. “Narration is a very specific skill, and not every performer can do it well. Telling a story is different from performing—it requires a balance of both, which is difficult to achieve.” With *What Happened to Nina?*, in which characters are close in age, she deliberately chose multiple narrators to help listeners distinguish between perspectives.

McTiernan’s Cormac Reilly series is set in Ireland, her birthplace, while her stand-alone novels are based in the U.S. Interestingly, she has only one work, *The Fireground*—an Audible Original—set in Australia, where she now resides. However, she revealed that her next novel will take place in Melbourne.

> *“There’s a rhythm to Irish conversation, the way we structure sentences, that’s very specific.”*

She described how her writing is driven by where the story takes her and spoke about the challenges of capturing authentic dialogue—not just for individual characters, but also for the setting and its linguistic nuances. “There’s a rhythm to Irish conversation, the way we structure sentences, that’s very specific,” she noted. “For example, in Irish, if you wanted to say, ‘I’m hungry,’ you’d say the equivalent of ‘the hunger is on me.’ That structure has carried into how we speak English. When I write a book set in Ireland, it feels natural, like home.” For her U.S.-based novels, she stretches herself further and relies on her editors to catch any missteps with the language.

McTiernan also emphasized the importance of spending time in the locations she writes about. She typically conducts initial research online but makes a point of visiting in person after completing at least a first draft, using the trip to verify and enrich her descriptions. For *What Happened to Nina?*, she spent time in Vermont, where the story is set, and was fortunate to meet a guide and learn what it’s like to live there. That kind of information poured into her characters.

While McTiernan doesn’t listen to her own audiobooks, she is an avid audiobook fan. She enjoys Harlan Coben’s novels, particularly those featuring the character Hester Crimstein, who has a distinctive New York accent. She’s also a fan of Anthony Horowitz’s Magpie Murders series and regularly listens to audiobooks with her teenage children.

Having practiced law for many years, McTiernan pivoted to fulfill a need to write. She plowed away at it, writing 500 words a night and then deciding the next day that they were rubbish. It was a slow start. When her first novel was finally finished, she sent it off, hoping at least for a personalized rejection letter from an agent. Instead, several publishers expressed interest.

What’s next for McTiernan? She finds endless inspiration in Stephen King and admires how, even in his late 70s, he continues to write simply because he loves it. That, she says, is what she hopes for herself—and we certainly hope the same for her.

More Listening

THE MURDER RULE
Dervla McTiernan, read by Kate Orsini, Sophie Amoss, Michael Crouch
Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE RUIN:
Cormac Reilly, Book 1
Dervla McTiernan,
read by Aoife McMahon
Blackstone Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, MP3, DD
Library Ed.: CD

THE SCHOLAR:
Cormac Reilly, Book 2
Dervla McTiernan,
read by Aoife McMahon
Blackstone Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: CD, MP3, DD
Library Ed.: CD

WHAT HAPPENED TO NINA?
Dervla McTiernan, read by Kristen Sieh, Stacey Glemboski, Lisa Flanagan, Robert Petkoff, George Newbern, Jenna Lamia, Preston Butler III
Harper Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE UNQUIET GRAVE:
Cormac Reilly, Book 4
Dervla McTiernan,
read by Aoife McMahon
Bolinda Audio   Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Release date: April 30

"Diabolically clever and deeply moving." —DON WINSLOW
THE MURDER RULE
A NOVEL
NO ONE IS INNOCENT
IN THIS STORY
DERVLA
M
DERVLA
McTIERNAN
AUTHOR OF THE RUIN
THE SCHOLAR
A NOVEL
DERVLA McTIERNAN
THE UNQUIET GRAVE
Bolinda
A CORMAC REILLY NOVEL

BITTER PASSAGE
Colin Mills
Read by Steve West

Listeners will want to turn up the thermostat when they listen to British-accented Steve West present this horrific story. A Royal Navy ship is sent to rescue survivors of the Franklin Expedition, last seen in Baffin Bay in the Arctic Ocean in 1845. Among the searchers is Lieutenant Frederick Robinson, who is intent on advancing his Navy career, and surgeon Edward Adams, a great admirer of Franklin. In a crisp voice West describes the rescue team's efforts as scenes go from grim to gruesome to wholly ghastly. West is highly skilled at depicting both the personalities of crew members and their physical decline as they trudge through endless icy wastes. This beautifully narrated historical fiction is sprinkled with horror. *D.L.G.*

BITTER
PASSAGE
A NOVEL
COLIN MILLS

Brilliance Audio 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781511315562 $35.99

FATAL GAMBIT: Rekke, Book 2
David Lagercrantz, Ian Giles [Trans.]
Read by Simon Vance

This audiobook is a wonderful example of the magic that occurs when a complex story is brought to life by the Golden Voice of Simon Vance. At its core, this is a mystery revolving around the sudden reappearance of Claire Lidman, who has been presumed dead for 14 years. Claire's husband, Samuel, hires Hans Rekke, a disgraced professor, and Detective Michaela Vargas to solve the mystery of Claire's possible death or sudden reappearance. The novel intricately weaves in elements such as the 1990s financial crisis and the fall of the Berlin Wall, creating a fascinating story. Vance is an ideal choice as narrator. His performance adeptly combines a straightforward style with nuanced expressions of bemusement and incredulity, enhancing the overall listening experience. *D.J.S.*

Random House Audio 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593948446 $22.50

AGAINST THE GRAIN: Peter Diamond, Book 22
Peter Lovesey
Read by James Langton

From the heart-stopping prologue to the well-drawn characters and mind-boggling plot twists, James Langton's performance is spot-on. In the 22nd Peter Diamond novel, Diamond and his partner, Paloma, spend a reluctant week in the Somerset countryside with Diamond's former deputy, Julie, who is now blind from macular degeneration. Langton deftly reveals Julie's ulterior motives. She's concerned about a neighbor who may have been railroaded into prison for a murder she didn't commit. Julie wants Diamond to investigate. Langton emphasizes Diamond's dislike for country living as he confronts cantankerous cows and reeking cowpats, drives a tractor, and inhabits several of his favorite detectives' personas, Columbo and Poirot. Langton ratchets up the tension, and listeners will be as surprised as Diamond when the true killer is unmasked. First-rate listening. *S.J.H.*

Recorded Books 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798892744317 $17.19
(also CD, MP3)

THE PERFECT HOME
Daniel Kenitz
Read by Michael Crouch,
Amanda Stribling

THE
A Novel
PERFECT
HOME
READ BY
MICHAEL CROUCH
&
AMANDA STRIBLING
DANIEL KENITZ

Michael Crouch and Amanda Stribling team up to narrate this gripping thriller. Wyatt and Dawn Decker are an emerging home improvement couple on TV. Their on-screen personas project a sweet go-getter and a candid critic. Off-screen, however, Wyatt's obsession with fame clashes with Dawn's desire for authenticity. As they struggle to expand their family, Wyatt turns to an illegal fertility drug that alters his behavior. When Dawn discovers a horrifying document, she takes their twins and flees, starting a media frenzy. Crouch and Stribling shine with their credible Tennessee accents. Crouch's seemingly nonchalant tone and Stribling's nuanced delivery heighten the story's tension. Their outstanding performances make this a listen that's nearly impossible to pause. *S.K.G.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668111659 $25.99

A listen that's nearly impossible to pause.

THE COLLABORATORS
Michael Idov
Read by Santino Fontana

Narrator Santino Fontana perfectly affects various accents as cynical millennial CIA officer Ari Falk works undercover to help Russian opposition journalists develop stories that damage the Kremlin. As Falk tumbles into an international spy plot involving the disappearance of his best asset, a Russian American billionaire, he is joined by the bold and problematic Maya Chou. Fontana's calm and collected delivery accentuates the twisty plot and action sequences. Idov's fresh, intelligent, and intriguing young characters deliver thrills and chills as Falk unravels complex shenanigans. Fontana deliciously delivers witty dialogue and detailed depictions of colorful destinations like Berlin, Tangier, Latvia, Belarus, and Moscow. Fans of gritty novels asking big questions will love this. *R.O.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797186450 $24.99

DECEIVED BY THE LIGHT: DI Bob Willis, Book 1

Damien Boyd
Read by Nicholas Boulton

Narrator Nicholas Boulton brings Detective Bob Willis to life perfectly. Set in the west of England in 1985, this story finds Bob on sick leave, facing forced retirement and battling self-recrimination following the murder of his partner. As the story is told in the first person, the listener feels increasingly drawn into it. Boulton's rich West Country accent mirrors the setting. He also captures the sad yet rebellious character of Bob, who's prepared to bend the rules to uncover the truth about the death of his partner. Boulton's talent for characterization shines, especially his dialogue, for which he creates a variety of accents and gently delivered humor. His timing is spot-on, allowing the tension to build as the plot unfolds. *K.J.P.*

Brilliance Audio 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade: ISBN 9781511346627 $35.99

NOBODY'S HERO: Ben Koenig, Book 2

M.W. Craven
Read by William Hope

Narrator William Hope serves up the second adventure in a noir-influenced series featuring a lead character with a perpetually arched eyebrow. Craven's hero, Ben Koenig, is a former U.S. marshal with a rare genetic syndrome that makes him incapable of feeling fear or having second thoughts about dispatching villains. Hope adds warmth and humor as Koenig finds himself connected to a woman who has murdered two pickpockets and kidnapped an older woman. Ten years earlier, he helped her disappear because she knew a secret that threatened national security. Hope's perfect pacing engages the listener in this engrossing story of contract killers and international terrorism. He delivers the adrenaline-fueled action with a wise-guy attitude that plays well in every setting. *R.O.*

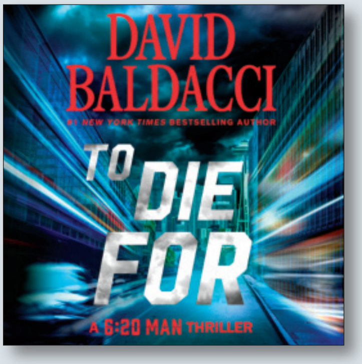
Macmillan Audio 11.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250350411 $26.99

MORE REVIEWS

Exclusive Web-Only
Mystery & Suspense Reviews
audiofilemagazine.com

TO DIE FOR: Travis Devine, Book 3

David Baldacci
Read by Zach Villa,
Mela Lee, Cassandra Morris,
Rena-Marie Villano,
Christine Lakin, Will Collyer,
Kiff VandenHeuvel, Erin Bennett



Fans of Baldacci's Travis Devine series will find everything they've come to expect: a multilayered plot, high-stakes action, and bodies dropping everywhere. Narrator Zach Villa leads as Travis Devine, supported by a well-matched cast who heighten the listening experience. This time, Devine must protect 12-year-old Betsy Odom in Seattle. A complex web of conspiracies draws in old friends and enemies. The narrators perfectly embody their characters, creating a compelling nonstop listen. Cassandra Morris shines as the precocious Betsy, bringing her personality vividly to life. As Devine's investigation unfolds, both he and listeners are left questioning whom to trust. With its fast-paced plot, masterful narration, and gripping twists, this audiobook delivers the intensity and intrigue listeners appreciate. *E.Q.*

Hachette Audio 12 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668639276 $27.99

Fans of Baldacci's Travis Devine series will find everything they've come to expect.

THE NOTE

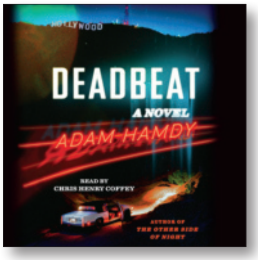
Alafair Burke
Read by Catherine Ho

Catherine Ho narrates a thriller featuring a practical joke gone awry. Old friends May, Lauren, and Kelsey spend a holiday weekend together in the Hamptons, but after a drunken prank goes horribly wrong, their friendship is tested in unexpected ways. May is eager to see her friends in person for the first time in several years, and Ho capably balances her eagerness and anxiety. After a man goes missing and the three friends are implicated, Ho picks away at the cracks in each of their façades: May becomes brittle, Lauren withdrawn, and Kelsey unstable. As the climax unfolds, Ho guides the various characters through the emotional wringer to the dramatic ending. *K.M.P.*

Random House Audio 9.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593947159 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593947166 $85.50

DEADBEAT

Adam Hamdy
Read by Chris Henry Coffey



Narrator Chris Henry Coffey affects a gravelly rumble as Peyton, a deadbeat dad, is presented with an unimaginable opportunity that will make all his legal and financial problems go away. All he has to do is kill a guy. As Hamdy explores Peyton's unease at the prospect of becoming an assassin, Coffey's dour tone and precise pacing give Peyton's deadly mission emotional weight. Coffey gives his voice hints of guilt as Payton accepts the job, providing his ex-wife and daughter a financial cushion. As a game of cat-and-mouse ensues, Hamdy creates a noir character with a brain and heart—which isn't so easy to do in the hard-boiled genre. *R.O.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 10 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781797184340 $25.99

ALTER EGO

Alex Segura
Read by Frankie Corzo

ALTER EGO
A Novel
Alex Segura
Author of SECRET IDENTITY

Frankie Corzo creates a believable character in filmmaker and comic-book artist Annie Bustamante. Initially, Annie is excited to be offered the opportunity to bring her favorite superhero, the Lethal Lynx, back to life as part of an ambitious project. But she soon realizes that things aren't what they seem and must piece together clues from the past and present to uncover some surprising truths. Corzo's portrayals, including accents, are perfectly matched to the wide array of characters, especially Annie's enthusiastic daughter. The excerpts from the "Lethal Lynx" episodes throughout the story add a unique dimension to the listening experience. *K.J.P.*

Macmillan Audio 11.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250369581 $26.99

EVERY ARC BENDS ITS RADIAN

Sergio De La Pava
Read by Lee Osorio

Lee Osorio's skilled narration is perfectly matched to this genre-bending mystery. After the tragic death of his wife, private investigator Riv leaves his New York home and heads to Colombia, where he reconnects with family. There, he is drawn into finding a missing young woman who is feared to be in the clutches of the villain Exeter Mondragon. With his use of accents Osorio creates a believable cast of characters inhabiting a convincing backdrop. In particular, Osorio delivers a deliciously evil supervillain in Mondragon, using a chilling British accent with great effect. His spot-on pacing allows the plot to unfold as it twists through a variety of horrifying scenes. *K.J.P.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 7.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781797185033 $19.99

BUSYBODIES

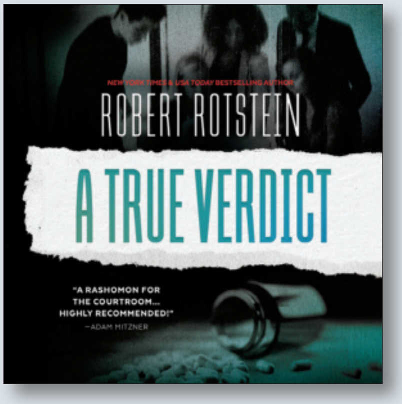
Elle Cosimano, Jesse Q. Sutanto,
Emma Rosenblum, Nita Prose,
Kellye Garrett, Alicia Thompson
Read by Megan Tusing, Eunice Wong,
Brittany Pressley, Sherri Slater,
Jordan Cobb, Helen Laser

Listeners are treated to six very original short stories masterfully performed by an ensemble of talented narrators. Each story follows a woman who, while investigating a supposed crime, finds herself in a precarious and/or humorous situation. The narrators are perfectly matched to their characters and settings. From Elle Cosimano's real estate lesson on staging a house while solving a murder to Jesse Q. Sutanto's Chinese New Year dinner disaster and to Nita Prose's quirky nosy neighbor story, the plots will entice listeners and sometimes have them laughing along. The narrators effectively differentiate the characters, male and female. The result is a collection full of listening gems—engaging and entertaining from start to finish. *E.Q.*

Brilliance Audio 6.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781511345828 $24.99

A TRUE VERDICT

Robert Rotstein
Read by Sean Pratt, Phil Thron,
Kelli Tager, Sophie Amoss,
Natalie Naudus, Fajer Al-Kaisi,
Hillary Huber, Mark Bramhall,
Robin Miles, et al.


NEW YORK TIMES & USA TODAY BESTSELLING AUTHOR
ROBERT ROTSTEIN
A TRUE VERDICT
"A RASHOMON FOR THE COURTROOM... HIGHLY RECOMMENDED!"
—ADAM MITZNER

Thirteen talented narrators deliver flawless performances in this engrossing courtroom drama. Ellison Ricard, a Black research analyst for a Big Pharma company, uncovers data suggesting that their bestselling drug is harmful to Black users. After a violent confrontation that leads to his dismissal, Ricard files a civil suit against MediMiracle. The novel's structure is perfect for audio. In interwoven monologues, secret passions, prejudices, and personal problems are revealed. In the jury room, antagonisms among factions run high. Listeners hear from both attorneys and jurors, who include an editor, a cleaner, a furniture magnate, a vet tech, and more. Accepting the conclusion might stretch listeners' credulity, but the outstanding performances make this an enjoyable listening experience. *S.J.H.*

Blackstone Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798212189415 $22.95 (also CD, MP3)
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798212189408 $49.95 (also CD)

Thirteen talented narrators deliver flawless performances in this engrossing courtroom drama.

THE BLUE HOUR

Paula Hawkins
Read by Gemma Whelan

Narrator Gemma Whelan masterfully brings to life this dark, atmospheric mystery. Her performance captures Hawkins's beautifully written descriptions of settings, artworks, and characters. The isolated Scottish island of Eris, accessible only when the tide recedes, emerges as a compelling character alongside its recently deceased inhabitant, the reclusive artist Vanessa Chapman. When a human bone is discovered in one of Chapman's sculptures on exhibit at the Tate, attention is drawn back to the island and the mysterious disappearance, decades earlier, of Chapman's husband. Whelan excels at differentiating characters from across the British Isles, creating distinct vocal personas. Yet the audiobook requires careful listener engagement, with its frequent shifts between timeframes and perspectives. A richly layered audio experience for the patient listener. *E.Q.*

Harper Audio 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063396555 $27.99

A DEATH IN DIAMONDS: Her Majesty the Queen Investigates, Book 4

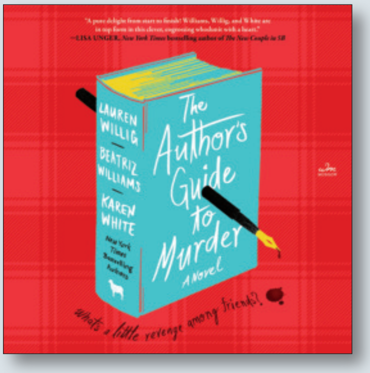
S.J. Bennett
Read by Samantha Bond

Samantha Bond is winning as Queen Elizabeth II in the fourth mystery in this delightful series. The Queen is in Paris on State business, when several mishaps occur that could be sabotage. Additionally, Philip is accused of a double murder in Chelsea but claims he's innocent and that she is his alibi. But is it the truth? The Queen contacts Joan McGraw, a brilliant palace typist, to be the face of the investigation. Bond's lovely voice, genteel manner, and upper-crust pronunciations deliver entertaining portraits of a determined queen, an insouciant Princess Margaret, and a canny Queen Mum. She smoothly voices popular politicos and the Queen's group of dedicated women assistants. Bond's performance highlights political intrigues, murderous intentions, and a sharp-witted, spirited queen. Highly enjoyable listening. *S.J.H.*

Dreamscape 12.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781666679250 $38.99

THE AUTHOR'S GUIDE TO MURDER

Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig, Karen White
Read by Angus King, Saskia Maarleveld, Brittany Pressley, Lisa Flanagan


The Author's Guide to Murder
A Novel
Lauren Willig
Beatriz Williams
Karen White
what's a little revenge among friends?

What fun! Listeners will revel in this novel set on a scenic Scottish island, which is brought to life by four exceptional narrators. The story jumps between the distinct voices of Kat, a fantasy and erotica writer, expertly portrayed by Saskia Maarleveld; Cassie, a cozy author and mother of six, who shines with charm and guilelessness through Brittany Pressley; and Emma, a historian who is devoted to facts, masterfully voiced by Lisa Flanagan. When a murder occurs, all three women become suspects and are interrogated by DCI Macintosh, who is portrayed with a delightful brogue by Angus King. The narrators capture every twist and turn of this entertaining romp, making it clear how much fun both the authors and performers had with this story. *E.Q.*

Harper Audio 11.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063259898 $27.99

The narrators capture every twist and turn.

THE TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB

Tom Ryan
Read by Graham Halstead

Unexplained deaths, betrayal, corruption, secret societies, and buried treasure are only a few of the plot threads in Tom Ryan's twisty new mystery, and narrator Graham Halstead meshes them seamlessly. Peter Barnett's routine life changes after his estranged grandmother contacts him, inviting him to share her Maple Bay, Nova Scotia, mansion. Failed writer Cass is house-sitting in Maple Bay, hoping to revive her writing, while teenager Dandy is puzzling over her late grandfather's instructions to take his place in a secret group that is searching for buried treasure. Halstead juggles the alternating voices easily, heightening the tension when a series of suspicious deaths occurs. His multifaceted delivery highlights the town's eccentric characters, Cass's research on the pirate treasure, and Dandy's sleuthing. Exciting, surprising, and witty listening. *S.J.H.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 10.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668130933 $25.99

ASSUME NOTHING

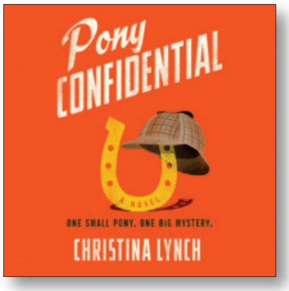
Joshua Corin
Read by Lauren Fortgang

Lauren Fortgang narrates this twisty new audiobook about a 1990s teenager who is forced to recognize that it may be better not to meet your heroes. Ten years ago, Kat McCann's mother was killed in cold blood, and famed detective Alik Lisser solved the case, discovering that the killer was Kat's father. Then, the real-life detective became a fictional one when he began turning up in the books of Kat's favorite author. Determined to prove her father was innocent, Kat seeks out Lisser for the real story and soon learns that evil can look just like a sweet old man. Fortgang captures the youthful nature of teenaged Kat and the way she moves through the messy world of adults to find justice for her dad. Fortgang also skillfully creates a believable cast of adult characters who are caught up in their own affairs. *V.B.*

Brilliance Audio 9 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781511344685 $35.99

PONY CONFIDENTIAL

Christina Lynch
Read by Erin Moon, Blair Young

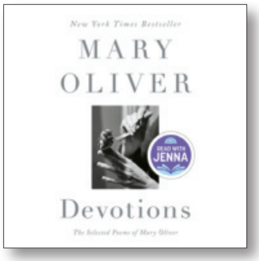


Erin Moon and Blair Young narrate this quirky mystery about a naughty pony and his quest to reunite with his human and solve a decades-old mystery. New evidence leading to her arrest reveals that Penny might have murdered a horse farm owner at the age of 12. Pony, still bitter about Penny having suddenly sold him years ago, seeks her out to demand answers. Moon voices Penny, who is sure of her innocence, with careful optimism that changes to frustration as she goes through the justice system. Young's voice for Pony delightfully embodies his snark and obstinacy. The many other animals along his journey are given distinct, comical voices. The narrators' duet enhances the heart and laugh-out-loud moments in this audiobook. *A.K.R.*

Random House Audio 11.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593942833 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593942840 $95.00

DEVOTIONS: The Selected Poems of Mary Oliver

Mary Oliver
Read by Kimberly Farr



Many of Mary Oliver's poems are about God or nature, and sometimes it's difficult to find the line between them. Her world was full of many delights, and had she lived to hear them, Kimberly Farr's interpretations of her poems would have been among them. There is some melancholy in this collection—although not much—and Farr's marvelous vocal talents bring that out as much as the great joy Oliver derived from being in the woods or at the seashore or anywhere there was wildness. Sometimes Farr's voice caresses the words, sometimes excitedly declaims them; nonetheless, her delivery is always true to their deeper emotions. Oliver chose these poems as her best, and here we can hear them as their best selves. *D.M.H.*

Penguin Audio 6.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217162758 $20.00

THE GLASS MENAGERIE

Tennessee Williams
Read by Calista Flockhart, John Goodman, Julie Harris, Zeljko Ivanek, Kevin Kilner

A stellar cast performs Tennessee Williams's first major play, produced here by L.A. Theatre Works. Calista Flockhart has the difficult role of the painfully shy Laura Wingfield, while Julie Harris is her overbearing and talkative mother, Amanda. John Goodman soberly narrates the painful story, which is based on Laura's brother Tom's memories of his family's struggles to stay afloat and hopeful in the last years of the Depression. The audio play offers listeners the immediacy of live theater; however, sounds other than voices, such as doors closing and chairs scraping, break the intensity of the dialogue. Still, the power of the iconic work shines through, thanks to this professional ensemble of actors. *L.W.S.*

L.A. Theatre Works 2 hrs. Audio Program
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781682661949 $6.95
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781682661949 $29.95

YOU ARE HERE: Poetry in the Natural World

Ada Limón [Ed.]
Read by Kim Ramirez

Each American poet laureate is expected to carry out at least one project, and the 24th, Ada Limón, created this anthology of poems about humans in nature. Narrated by Kim Ramirez, the audiobook includes a range of exemplary contemporary poets, including Joy Harjo, Jericho Brown, Dianne Seuss, Matthew Zapruder, and many fine (if sometimes lesser-known) others. Ramirez gives each of the 50 poems its due, acting but never overdramatizing, allowing rather than forcing the emotions to emerge. Like their authors, the poems cover a broad range of styles and locations, ranging from the grandeur of our national parks to a flower seen at a bus stop. This is an exploration of our changing relationship to the natural world, and an invitation to share in it. *D.M.H.*

Tantor Media 2.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798855585087 $10.99

THE GOLDEN SHIELD

Anchuli Felicia King
Read by Fang Du, Greg Germann, Belinda Gosbee, Angela Lin, Mardy Ma, Eon Song, Josh Stamberg, Zhan Wang, Joanne Whalley, Jenapher Zheng

L.A. THEATRE WORKS
LATW
SUSAN A. LOEWENBERG, PRODUCING DIRECTOR
GOLDEN
金盾工程
SHIELD
By Anchuli Felicia King
Directed by Anna Lyse Erikson

Asian American actors Angela Lin and Jenapher Zheng are perfect as a determined lawyer who hires her independent-minded sister to be a Mandarin-English translator in a high-stakes multinational lawsuit. In this complex and compelling drama, emotions run high, and ethics run low when the Chinese government partners with an American tech giant to enhance the country's internet speed while allowing the government to secretly spy on its own citizens. Featuring a stand-out ensemble cast, including Josh Stamberg as the smarmy corporate executive and Zhan Wang as a political dissident, the play's scenes and soundscapes swing seamlessly from a Texas courtroom to corporate boardrooms to Beijing nightclubs. Smart, cutting-edge listening from playwright Anchuli Felicia King and L.A. Theatre Works. *B.P.*

L.A. Theatre Works 2 hrs. Audio Program
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781682661871 $6.95
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781682661871 $29.95

Smart, cutting-edge listening.

THE YELLOW WALLPAPER AND OTHER STORIES

Charlotte Perkins Gilman
Read by Laurel Lefkow

This fresh production of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's classic short stories featuring strong and enterprising women pairs perfectly with the vocal talents of Laurel Lefkow. Lefkow lends emotional nuance to their pragmatism, courage, and desire as they transcend stifling societal expectations in stories like "The Widow's Might," "Bee Wise," and "An Elopement." "The Yellow Wallpaper," Gilman's best-known story, is the collection's standout, in terms of both its insightful foray into a postpartum emotional experience and Lefkow's masterful performance. Her voice gradually takes on a bright, fevered intensity as the story builds throughout the woman's isolated confinement inside the titular room of a country house. Listeners experience in the first person the woman's smooth, unnerving breakdown. Lefkow's subtle shifts in tone and pacing throughout create an unforgettable experience. *J.R.T.*

Naxos AudioBooks 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781781985298 $19.50

ANSWERED PRAYERS

Truman Capote
Read by Kirby Heyborne

For those curious about Capote's final publication, listening to Kirby Heyborne's audiobook performance is recommended. Capote's last work was published posthumously in the 1980s after a long delay. The audiobook is a loosely threaded "nonfiction novel" about an aspiring writer who encounters famous figures in the literary establishment while he is trying to survive. The result is frenetic, disjointed, sexually explicit, and, at times, profane. Capote occasionally interrupts his own narrative, asking listeners for a moment while he "sharpens his pencils." It's a curious listening experience. What's not debatable is Heyborne's voice, which conveys the proceedings with a pitch-perfect delivery, creating a new way to approach Capote's last published words. *S.P.C.*

Random House Audio 6 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217079728 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217079735 $47.50

BLUES IN STEREO: The Early Works of Langston Hughes

Langston Hughes,
Danez Smith [Ed.]
Read by Danez Smith

LANGSTON
HUGHES
BLUES IN STEREO
The EARLY WORKS of LANGSTON HUGHES
CURATED BY DANEZ SMITH

A poet, performance artist, and devotee of Harlem Renaissance poet Langston Hughes presents a selection of Hughes's early poems, songs, and other writings, created from 1921 to 1927. Danez Smith is extraordinary at performing their stirring introduction to Hughes's early creative output. With their clear baritone voice and extraordinary vocal talent, Smith's performance is beautiful to hear and unfailingly connected to the core messages within these poems, journal entries, and other works. Hughes was a curious and brave artist who traveled widely to experience everyday people and worked steadily in Jim Crow America. Performed with stunning authenticity and verve, this audiobook is a showcase for the artistry of Danez Smith, as well as a revelatory lesson on one of America's greatest writers. *T.W.*

Hachette Audio 1.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668643716 $14.99

A revelatory lesson on one of America's greatest writers.

THE ROSE TATTOO

Tennessee Williams
Read by Emily Bergl, MarieClare Costello, Tim Dekay, Brent Hinkley, Anthony LaPaglia, Carol Locatell, Kate Mulligan, Antonia Rey, Peggy Roeder, Mercedes Ruehl, Vincent Schiavelli, Claudette Sutherland

This adaptation of Tennessee Williams's classic story of romance, fate, and a conflicted mother-daughter relationship is "theater of the mind," thanks to excellent performances by Tony Award winners Anthony LaPaglia and Mercedes Ruehl. An Italian American neighborhood explodes when the police kill truck driver Rosario Delle Rose, who was smuggling. His buxom widow, Serafina, portrayed by Ruehl, miscarries and withdraws from life, expecting her teenage daughter, Rosa, played by Emily Bergl, to join her. Bergl brings compassion and fury to Rosa's character when she falls in love with a sailor. Widow Serafina resists life until one eventful day when she finally gives in to a new love, a truck driver, portrayed by LaPaglia, after she learns of Rosario's affair with another woman. *R.O.*

L.A. Theatre Works 1.5 hrs. Audio Program
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781682661956 $6.95

THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES: Hercule Poirot, Book 1

Agatha Christie
Read by Joel Froomkin

Narrator Joel Froomkin is the perfect Hercule Poirot; his accent, vocal eccentricities, and braggadocio are spotless. Listeners first meet Captain Hastings, Poirot's friend, who is on respite from WWI at Styles. When Hastings learns of the murder of the lady of the house, he brings in Poirot, a Belgian refugee. Hastings, splendidly rendered by Froomkin, is an ideal sidekick who often draws wrong conclusions, bringing humor to the story. Colorful descriptions of the locale, food, and worried family members add atmosphere, and numerous secretive suspects and a clever use of poison invite many false hypotheses. Audio enhances the story's early-twentieth-century speech patterns and vocabulary, making this production the ideal way to savor Agatha Christie's first mystery. *S.G.B.*

Spotify Audiobooks 7 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798882459405 $10.49

SOME DO NOT: Parade's End Tetralogy, Part 1

Ford Madox Ford
Read by Rupert Degas

Golden Voice Rupert Degas captures this first novel in Ford Madox Ford's tetralogy, *Parade's End*. It revolves around WWI and Christopher Tietjens, an aristocrat who was decent and principled—even noble—in a way that is rapidly vanishing. Sometimes impressionistic yet realistically detailed, it paints the world in tones of heightened emotion. Degas's voice is excellent, his pacing good, his accents and voices, especially those of women, convincing. His acting is molded adeptly to the nuances of the text. But it is especially in his subtly heightened feeling that he captures the novel's voice and manner. He presses the narrative on intensely without distracting showiness, keeping the work absorbing and affecting. Degas ensures the listener remains caught up in the story despite the text's occasional complications. *W.M.*

Dreamscape 11.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781666664539 $25.00

Help Me Think About This

▶ I had a wonderful time listening to the audiobooks that came my way for this issue. When I started reviewing nonfiction titles for *AudioFile* 30 years ago, the audiobooks I heard were mainly how-to titles that provided step-by-step instructions. Today's audiobooks on personal growth and effectiveness offer guidance but are better at providing the features needed to promote engagement and learning. Two of our featured titles—*Tidy Up Your Life* and *Money for Couples*—provide how-to guidance but add to it rich backdrops of intellectual rationales and validating stories. This context boosts the value of their advice by connecting it with thinking and stories that sound true and familiar. The two authors are also persuasive because of their conversational delivery, audible vulnerability, and attractive speaking voices. Together, these qualities make them more likable and made me more open to what they had to say.

The Sirens' Call, by MSNBC host Chris Hayes, is another audiobook that scored with me for the impressive thinking that went into it. It's an exploration of how our attention has become an easily manipulated commodity that politicians and big corporations harness for their own purposes—often without our knowledge or permission. Hayes's recommendation that we be wary of such manipulations gains credibility as he explains the history of stolen attention (Odysseus and the Sirens' song) and applies it to the media manipulations we're all familiar with. Calling forth a whirlwind of contemporary political and consumer issues, this audio really made me think. While it was Hayes's ideas that drew me to *The Sirens' Call*, I stayed involved with this audiobook because of his spontaneous speaking style and audible commitment to his ideas. Good listening and *bon courage!—Tom Walken*

PERFECT IS BORING (AND IT TASTES LIKE KALE)

Jess Johnston
Read by Jess Johnston

The author and narrator of this charming guide felt isolated and inferior earlier in life. Here she describes how being honest with herself and other women helped her find self-acceptance. While she doesn't perform with the polish of a voice pro, Johnston has a likable voice, conversational rhythm, and affecting vulnerability. Her vocal sweetness and the funny life episodes she shares create an inviting space for women to take a fresh look at their assumptions and expectations of themselves. She describes 14 lies that too many women absorb from their families, culture, and, especially, other women, lies that stifle who they are and create impossible ideals. This relatable wisdom will awaken the listener's desire for greater self-acceptance. *T.W.*

Random House Audio 4.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593946169 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593946176 $66.50

TIDY UP YOUR LIFE

Tyler Moore
Read by Tyler Moore

A likable teacher who lives with his wife and three daughters in a New York City apartment shares tips for organizing small spaces and complicated families. Tyler Moore's vocal clarity and charisma are wonderful vehicles for his excellent advice. While broad changes in managing one's space and family may be a tough sell for overly busy people, Moore's pleasing delivery gives his ideas tremendous appeal. Along with clever communication practices to keep everyone engaged, he recommends that families declutter by throwing out things, organizing what's left, and then tidying up and cleaning regularly so that keeping spaces clean doesn't become an ordeal. With this accessible resource, delightfully performed, chaotic lives and homes will become impossible to rationalize. *T.W.*

Random House Audio 5.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217079742 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798217079759 $57.00

MONEY FOR COUPLES

Ramit Sethi
Read by Ramit Sethi

This accessible guide covers everything—the values and blind spots people bring to a partnership, accounting practices that create clarity, and fresh ideas on making needs manageable and wishes fun to pursue. The money coach and podcaster Ramit Sethi describes best practices he's distilled from working with couples and can-do ideas that look to the future rather than focusing on pesky budgeting and daily deprivations. He's a savvy teacher whose intelligent suggestions and experience with couples are instantly obvious. Making this advice even sweeter is the author's performance, an exceptional blend of fine voice tone, colorful pitch variety, and clever phrasing that makes every sentence a joy to hear. This is a fantastic resource for couples wanting to reduce financial tension and enjoy life more. *T.W.*

Hachette Audio 11.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781668643839 $27.99

THE SIRENS' CALL
Chris Hayes
Read by Chris Hayes

After MSNBC host Chris Hayes begins his audiobook with what behavioral science knows about voluntary and involuntary attention, he explains how this fundamental human faculty is being hijacked by corporate America and slick political operatives. Hayes is an authentic narrator of his important message. His easy-listening performance conveys a comfortable command of his emotional tone and engagement with his thinking without underplaying the gravitas of his concerns. He says our attention is becoming a commodity that corporations and political interests are exploiting without our knowledge or consent. Our involuntary attention to messages that can reach us wherever we carry our smartphones is a threat to our autonomy. *T.W.*

Penguin Audio 9 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593951705 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593951712 $95.00

HOW TO BE ENOUGH
Ellen Hendriksen
Read by Ellen Hendriksen

Psychologist Ellen Hendriksen has a likable, easygoing narrating style that holds together the impressive amount of useful information in her latest audiobook. With her vocal clarity and strength, she sounds at once relaxed, assertive, and focused on connecting with her listeners. Her desire to help sounds authentic. This guide to recognizing perfectionism in ourselves and others offers enlightening distinctions between such things as self-scrutiny, the need to control others, narcissistic bullying, and anxious approval-seeking. Hendriksen is also lucid when discussing the internal feelings that fuel perfectionism and self-criticism. More valuable than the author's helpful insights is her intention to promote self-awareness—to stand back from your self-flagellation and unproductive acting out and to start treating yourself and others with more kindness. *T.W.*

Macmillan Audio 9.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250381354 $26.99
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9781250410733 $74.99

More Listening

KEEP IT SMOOTH:
Life Lessons in Confidence
Cameron Daddo, read by Cameron Daddo, Steve Blanda, Alison Daddo

Stories from the Australian entertainer and others on overcoming obstacles

Bolinda Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

AMERICAN BULK:
Essays on Excess
Emily Mester, read by Chloe Cannon

Graceful reflections and insights about our consumption habits

Tantor Media Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

HOW TO CHASE CHANGE:
30 Days to Master Your Mindset
Alexis Fernandez-Preiksa,
read by Alexis Fernandez-Preiksa

A likable neuroscientist shows how to turn aspirations and goals into action.

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

WHAT IF WE GET IT RIGHT:
Visions of Climate Futures
Ayana Elizabeth Johnson,
read by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson, Ayisha Siddiqa, Jacqueline Woodson, Steve Connell

A personable scientist interviews 20 experts on how to save the planet.

Random House Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

DISPOSABLE:
America's Contempt for the Underclass
Sarah Jones, read by Sarah Mollo-Christensen

A detailed picture of the ways people are left behind in America

Simon & Schuster Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

MEMENTO MORI:
The Art of Contemplating Death to Live a Better Life
Joanna Ebenstein,
read by Joanna Ebenstein

Gentle and moving advice on living fully now instead of fearing death

Penguin Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

LIGHTS ON: How Understanding Consciousness Helps Us Understand the Universe
Annaka Harris, read by Annaka Harris and a Full Cast

Provocative insights from conversations with scientists and philosophers

Macmillan Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

LIFE IN THREE DIMENSIONS:
How Curiosity, Exploration, and Experience Make a Fuller, Better Life
Shigehiro Oishi, read by Brian Nishii

A thoughtful exploration of what it means to be happy with your life

Random House Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD

THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING
Tyler Merritt, read by Tyler Merritt, Jerrie Merrett, David Tieche, Marcus Tan

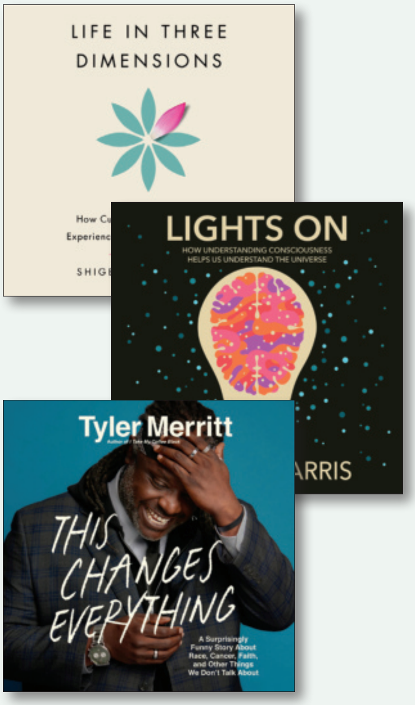
A rollicking love letter to life from the actor and comedian

Hachette Audio Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD

THE OBVIOUS CHOICE:
Timeless Lessons on Success, Profit, and Finding Your Way
Jonathan Goodman, read by Chris Ciulla

How to do business and life with grace and personal balance

Harper Collins Leadership Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD


LIFE IN THREE DIMENSIONS
LIGHTS ON
HOW UNDERSTANDING CONSCIOUSNESS HELPS US UNDERSTAND THE UNIVERSE
ARRIS
Tyler Merritt
THIS CHANGES EVERYTHING
A Surprisingly Funny Story About Race, Cancer, Faith, and Other Things We Don't Talk About

ON THE HIPPIE TRAIL: Istanbul to Kathmandu and the Making of a Travel Writer

Rick Steves
Read by Rick Steves

In 1978, Rick Steves left his job teaching piano lessons to set out on the legendary Hippie Trail. Starting in Europe, Steves and his friend Gene left the "wading pool of European travel" (as he puts it) to visit old friends in Bulgaria and then embark on an epic journey from Istanbul to Kathmandu. Steves's trademark enthusiasm and joie de vivre are on full display as he recounts his 23-year-old self's awe at seeing Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, and Nepal. Steves notes that shortly after this trip, and to the present day, several of these countries became regarded as unsafe for travel due to political upheaval. Nevertheless, he advocates continuing to travel where possible to quash ethnocentrism and make friends. *S.E.G.*

Hachette Audio 4.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668647875 $18.99

THE HARDER I FIGHT, THE MORE I LOVE YOU

Neko Case
Read by Neko Case

Singer-songwriter Neko Case narrates her memoir and brings to it a vitality and dynamism that give the listener a sense of actually being with her as she falls victim to manipulation by her mother, beginning at age 8. Case allows us to feel the tumult and trauma of impoverishment, neglect, and a steady stream of dislocations and relocations. Case balances these with a gentler tone when caring neighbors step in to provide comfort. The passion with which Case expresses her love of nature, horses, and music is palpable and centers listeners on what really matters, giving insights about the creative journey that led to Case's albums and Grammy nominations. Case's details are fresh and inventive. *S.W.*

Hachette Audio 7 hrs. Unabridged
Trade: ISBN 9781668645321 $24.99

INGRAINED: The Making of a Craftsman

Callum Robinson
Read by Callum Robinson

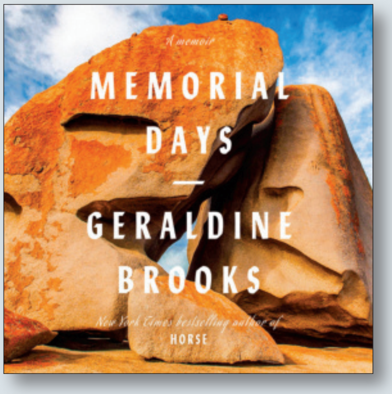
Narrating in his gravelly timbre and Scottish accent, Callum Robinson invites listeners into his workshop as he recalls the highs and lows of his bespoke woodworking business. The son of a master woodworker, Robinson found his way into the profession as an apprentice and then learned more through his travels. Reflecting on childhood lessons, he marvels at how far his father's craft has taken him. Facing financial stress, Robinson and his wife, Marissa, forge a new business plan for the workshop. Robinson writes with tenderness, describing various trees and woods in observant, reflective language. Part memoir, part nature writing, this audiobook celebrates the beauty of Scotland and woodworking. Robinson's warm tone makes it a pleasure to hear. *C.R.*

Ingrained
The Making of a Craftsman
CALLUM ROBINSON

Harper Audio 8 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063350885 $26.99

MEMORIAL DAYS: A Memoir

Geraldine Brooks
Read by Geraldine Brooks



When novelist Geraldine Brooks's husband, Tony Horwitz, dies while on a book tour, she gets the call from a harried medical resident who can't get off the phone fast enough. Brooks alternates between memories of those first days and her life three years later on an isolated island in Australia, where she finally takes time to focus on grieving. Listening feels particularly intimate. Brooks's performance is heartfelt and beautiful, both precise and expansive. There is shock—Tony was only 60 and went to the gym avidly; indignation at the suggestion that a guardian ad litem is necessary for custody of Brooks's son; and gratitude at the unexpected gift of finding Tony's scrawl in the margins of books, like a conversation, even though Geraldine would never treat a book in such a cavalier manner. *A.B.*

Penguin Audio 5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217064236 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217064243 $57.00

> *Brooks's performance is heartfelt and beautiful, both precise and expansive.*

STILL LIFE WITH REMORSE

Maira Kalman
Read by Maira Kalman

Listening to artist Maira Kalman narrate her work is akin to sitting next to a beloved friend. The artist recounts stories of her parents and grandparents going from Belarus to Israel to the U.S. Kalman recounts episodes in her and her family's lives that resulted in remorse. She also reflects on remorseful instances in the lives of painters, musicians, and philosophers. Kalman playfully points out the absurdity of life, together with its sadness and beauty. Her reflections on tragedy are often juxtaposed with love and humor. Her textured voice, full of wonder and mischief, keeps the listening experience delightfully light. Although this is a short listen, the narration coupled with the content has a moving and positive emotional impact. *A.M.*

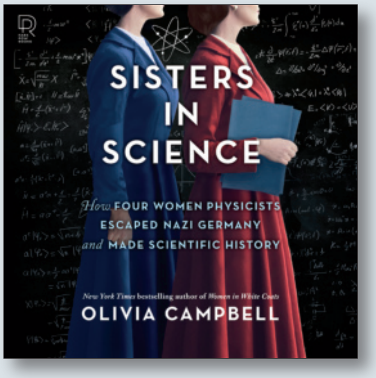
Harper Audio 1 hr. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063391833 $27.99

DIRTBAG QUEEN: A Memoir of My Mother
Andy Corren
Read by Andy Corren

Sarcastic, irreverent, and heartfelt—everything is larger than life in this fond, raw, and boisterous remembrance of Renay Mandel Corren, the author's mother, who "didn't cook, didn't clean, and was lousy with money but was great at dyeing her red roots, weekly manicures, filthy jokes, and pier fishing." With the energy of a stand-up comic, performer and playwright Andy Corren tells of teetering on the edges of poverty and rampant family dysfunction with four brothers and one sister in late 1970s Fayetteville, North Carolina. Corren recounts the added challenges of growing up Jewish and gay in the Deep South, and how mother and son bonded over such cultural touchstones as Larry King, Donnie and Marie Osmond, and Cabbage Patch Kids. This audiobook is a big, loving goodbye to a son's best friend. *B.P.*

Hachette Audio 10 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668643747 $27.99

SISTERS IN SCIENCE: How Four Women Physicists Escaped Nazi Germany and Made Scientific History
Olivia Campbell
Read by Cassandra Campbell


SISTERS IN SCIENCE
How FOUR WOMEN PHYSICISTS ESCAPED NAZI GERMANY and MADE SCIENTIFIC HISTORY
New York Times bestselling author of Women in White Coats
OLIVIA CAMPBELL

Cassandra Campbell's outstanding narration makes this history of Nazi efforts to eliminate Jewish and female academic opportunities in Germany an accessible and completely absorbing listen. While this subject is challenging, Campbell's investment in relaying the historical details of Nazi actions to eradicate women's roles in public professions, and, indeed, in all aspects of public life, is one that will mesmerize listeners. The narrative focuses on the lives of four female German physicists—Hedwig Kohn, Lise Meitner, Hertha Sponer, and Hildegard Stucklen—only two of whom were Jewish. Campbell conveys the frantic efforts each woman undertook to escape Germany with such expression and urgency that listeners will be deeply moved. Her ability to convey complex scientific terminology, as well as her adept pronunciation of German words, adds authenticity. *M.J.*

Harlequin Audio 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781488231643 $24.99

An accessible and completely absorbing listen.

STILL LIFE AT EIGHTY: The Next Interesting Thing
Abigail Thomas
Read by Abigail Thomas

On the verge of turning 80, American novelist, poet, and memoirist Abigail Thomas wrote a series of introspective vignettes about the quotidian moments of her life at that time. She conversationally shares observations, occasionally in third person, of ordinary moments during the extraordinary times of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the innumerable joys she reflects on are her beloved dogs. Many of the moments captured in this quietly memorable audiobook include their antics, as well as some poignant moments involving loss. The author's keen wit further seasons the collection as new hobbies, like spatchcocking chicken, take her by surprise, or when she is mulling over the term "senior citizen" versus "elder." Thomas's unhurried performance invites listeners of all ages to pause and appreciate each day. *J.R.T.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 4 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781668119891 $14.99

ROMAN YEAR: A Memoir
André Aciman
Read by Edoardo Ballerini

Narrator Edoardo Ballerini captures the listener's heart with this new audiobook memoir following a family that was forced to move to Rome after being expelled from their home in Egypt during political unrest. In his adolescence, André Aciman, his brother, and his deaf mother find themselves in a city where they don't speak the language. As the year progresses, André must find himself and embrace Rome as the city of his exodus. Ballerini's performance captures the confusion and instability of a young man who is struggling to come to terms with the loss of the life he once knew and his new life in a new city. Ballerini embraces the poetry of Aciman's words with his thoughtful delivery. *V.B.*

A MEMOIR
Read by EDOARDO BALLERINI
ANDRÉ ACIMAN
ROMAN YEAR
AUTHOR OF CALL ME BY YOUR NAME

Macmillan Audio 11.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250353917 $26.99

MY GOOD BRIGHT WOLF: A Memoir
Sarah Moss
Read by Morven Christie

Morven Christie performs this captivating memoir by English writer and academic Sarah Moss. From an early age, society taught Moss that girls are to be restrained, smart but not too smart. At home, she learned to have a poor relationship with food; a girl must stay thin above all else at whatever cost. Moss's memoir recounts her life as she pushes back against the patriarchal structures that threaten to confine her. Christie's performance captures Moss's narrative voice, creating a quiet intimacy that invites the listener into Moss's world. As Moss battles her eating disorder, Christie's narration develops layers of emotional depth. *K.D.W.*

Macmillan Audio 8.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250369918 $19.99

HIROSHIMA: The Last Witnesses (Embers, Book 1)

M.G. Sheftall
Read by Brian Nishii

Brian Nishii, who was born and raised in Tokyo, is the perfect voice to narrate these eyewitness accounts of the bombing of Hiroshima. This volume is the first of a two-volume series on the atomic bombings of August 1945. Drawing on extensive interviews with those who survived, called "hibakusha" in Japanese, he gives great detail on the day-to-day lives of the Japanese homefront and also provides details on Americans involved—from the crew of the bombers to those who developed the bomb. Nishii's pacing, inflection, and pronunciation are perfect. His Japanese pronunciation is flawless, as one would expect, and adds to the overall clarity of the narration. It would be nice if there were some way to see the photos, maps, and bibliography of the print edition. *M.T.F.*

Penguin Audio 17 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593911969 $25.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593911976 $95.00

NIGHT FLYER: Harriet Tubman and the Faith Dreams of a Free People

Tiya Miles, Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Read by Janina Edwards

Narrator Janina Edwards gives an exceptional presentation of this biographical examination of Harriet Tubman. This audiobook compares the work of Tubman and other known civil rights activists in the pre-Civil War period. Edwards effectively delivers the vignettes of Tubman's life, complete with Southern accents and the local vernacular of the era. Tubman endured more physical abuse and mental hardships in her lifetime than any other activist. Most did not physically help hundreds of slaves gain their freedom. Edwards creates a realistic portrait of the woman, her life and loves, and what drove her into action. There is new information embedded in this portrait that will amaze most listeners. Edwards's clear admiration for this hero resonates in her voice and performance. *E.E.S.*

Penguin Audio 6 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593864395 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593864401 $66.50

REALM OF ICE AND SKY: Triumph, Tragedy, and History's Greatest Arctic Rescue

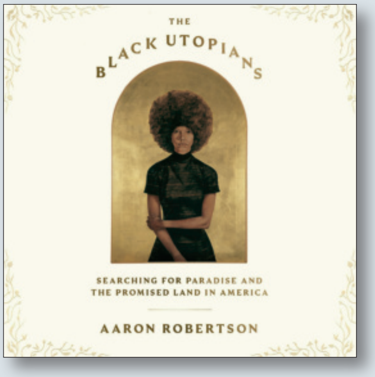
Buddy Levy
Read by Will Damron

Will Damron transports listeners to the cold of the Arctic as polar explorers attempt to reach the North Pole by airship instead of by dog and sled. The story includes triumph and failure, as well as big personalities, fraudulent history, and new media communication directly from the airships. Damron expresses the thrill of Roald Amundsen reaching the North Pole in 1926 in his airship, the *Norge*, becoming the first person to have reached both poles. When Umberto Nobile's expedition, supported by Mussolini and the Pope, crashes, Damron speeds up the pacing and ratchets up the tension. As Nobile's men await rescue, they scare off polar bears, deal with the ice floes breaking up around them, and try to get their radio working. *A.B.*

Macmillan Audio 12 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250379030 $26.99

THE BLACK UTOPIANS: Searching for Paradise and the Promised Land in America

Aaron Robertson
Read by Dion Graham



Melancholy music opens this production, underscoring the pensive nature of Robertson's extraordinary research on safe communities Black people created to remake their lives. Narrator Dion Graham's smooth baritone carries gravitas and emotion as he presents this overview with examples of settlements developed specifically by and for Black men and women from the Reconstruction era to the present day. It includes heartfelt memories of the author's ancestral home in Tennessee and descriptions of the extensive efforts to shape a utopia by Reverend Albert Cleage, Jr., through his Church of the Black Madonna in Detroit and South Carolina, along with accounts of the racism that artist Glanton Dowdell observed in Sweden, where he was living. Graham's impassioned performance of letters written by Robertson's father is icing on the cake. *S.D.B.*

Macmillan Audio 10.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250353924 $26.99

Graham's smooth baritone carries gravitas and emotion.

JULIA CHILD'S KITCHEN: The Design, Tools, Stories, and Legacy of an Iconic Space

Paula J. Johnson, Jacques Pépin [Fore.]
Read by Elizabeth Wiley, Jacques Pépin

Any listener who's a fan of Julia Child will delight in this audiobook, which is a metaphorical time capsule of American home kitchens in the second half of the twentieth century. Elizabeth Wiley describes how Julia and her husband, Paul, organized their kitchen for comfort, efficiency, and hospitality in their Cambridge home. Wiley warmly narrates the many interviews of the family, friends, and chefs who enjoyed the famous space. Wiley's enthusiasm is especially enjoyable in the final sections of the book, which describe the remarkable process of moving Julia's kitchen to the Smithsonian. The author is one of the curators who meticulously dismantled the kitchen and created the museum display. The conclusion from French chef Jacques Pépin is the frosting on the cake. *N.M.C.*

Tantor Media 5.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798855567045 $15.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798855567052 $39.95

SCOTLAND YARD: A History of the London Police Force's Most Infamous Murder Cases

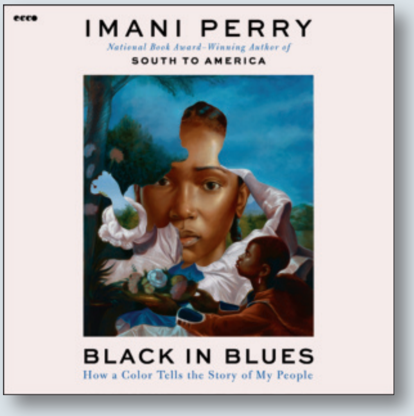
Simon Read
Read by Harry Myers

Harry Myers dives into the role of narrator for this "History of the London Police Force's Most Infamous Murder Cases." Beginning with the Ratcliffe Highway Murders in 1811, these detailed accounts of the force and a panoply of murders include Jack the Ripper and the Whitechapel Murders. Myers uses a gritty tone and an educated London accent for the narrative and various accents for the dialogue of judges, barristers, and doctors; heavily inflected voices for merchant and working classes; and a flat American accent for New York newspaper accounts. Myers also captures the gruesome murders and dismemberments as told through newspaper articles, case files, trial transcripts, and detectives' accounts. Perfect for fans of true crime and urban histories. *M.B.K.*

Dreamscape 14.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781666672046 $34.99

BLACK IN BLUES: How a Color Tells the Story of My People

Imani Perry
Read by Imani Perry


ecco
IMANI PERRY
National Book Award-Winning Author of
SOUTH TO AMERICA
BLACK IN BLUES
How a Color Tells the Story of My People

Imani Perry contemplates the connection between the color blue and African and African American history and culture. From the traditional practice of dying indigo cloth in West Africa to the blues musical tradition in America, Perry posits that Black life has always been entangled with the color blue. She performs her stunning narration in a soft, rhythmic voice, drawing listeners into her riveting examination of the color blue in all its forms. While Perry's performance often moves along slowly, her engrossing narratives around Black art and history are completely captivating. The depth of Perry's research and her love of the topic shine through her performance, creating a truly beautiful listening experience. *K.D.W.*

Harper Audio 9 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063380240 $27.99

A truly beautiful listening experience.

THE GREATEST NOBODIES OF HISTORY: Minor Characters from Major Moments

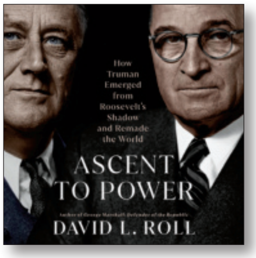
Adrian Bliss
Read by Adrian Bliss, Beth Rylance, Sebastian Humphreys, Kristin Atherton

With his friendly, reedy English accent, content creator and social media stalwart Adrian Bliss takes the listener on a wonderful and often laugh-out-loud tour of the back pages of history, told from the perspective of some very odd characters. There's the ferret (or is it an ermine) that posed for one of Leonardo da Vinci's most famous paintings. A giant oak tree that helped Charles I's son elude Cromwell's forces. And a heartbreaking tale about the colonization of the Island of Mauritius, told by its last dodo. Sprinkled with light music, sound effects, and occasional supporting voices, the audiobook makes history sound magical. Helpfully, each chapter ends with a rundown of the events' true facts. Droll, disarming, and historically correct—what fun. *B.P.*

Random House Audio 7.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798217067794 $17.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9798217067800 $76.00

ASCENT TO POWER: How Truman Emerged from Roosevelt's Shadow and Remade the World

David L. Roll
Read by Mark Bramhall


How Truman Emerged from Roosevelt's Shadow and Remade the World
ASCENT TO POWER
DAVID L. ROLL

With a steady voice and skilled delivery, Mark Bramhall splendidly narrates this sympathetic account of how Harry Truman rose to power and changed, not only postwar America, but also the world. Truman was a relatively unknown Missouri senator when he was picked by FDR over then current Vice President Henry Wallace to be FDR's running mate in 1944. Concentrating on the years 1945-48, Roll goes into great detail describing the behind-the-scenes dealmaking and politicking that goes into American politics, as well as the personal interactions at Yalta and Potsdam among the victorious Allied leaders. He affects subtle accent changes when delivering the quotes that add to this production. Bramhall delivers all this with perfect energy, pacing, and expression. *M.T.F.*

Penguin Audio 20 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593869611 $27.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593869628 $95.00

THE EAGLE AND THE HART: The Tragedy of Richard II and Henry IV

Helen Castor
Read by Helen Castor

Helen Castor delivers political intrigue, dynastic maneuvering, romance, treachery, and war during the reigns of Richard II and his usurping cousin, Henry IV, up to the accession of Henry's son, Henry V. Overall, Castor narrates this historical drama with suitable intensity. Some authorial liberties, such as expressing the inner thoughts of historical personages, blend into the brisk flow of the performance and actually enhance the audiobook's novelistic aspects. Castor's diction is clear, her intonation and emphases match and enhance the text's meanings and nuances, and her pace is perfect for the suspenseful story she delivers of men and women noble, flawed, egotistical, and often tough as nails. The result is a performance both informative and richly entertaining. *W.M.*

Simon & Schuster Audio 20 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781797185187 $34.99

TRESS OF THE EMERALD SEA: A COSMERE NOVEL:
Secret Projects 1

Brandon Sanderson
Read by Chris Davenport, Crystal Lee, Torian Brackett, Wyn Delano, Eva Wilhelm, Natalie Van Sistine, Shanta Parasuraman, and a Full Cast

Chris Davenport's fluid narration ties together the voices of this full-cast production set in the Cosmere universe. Sweet, naïve Tress, voiced by Crystal Lee, collects cups brought by sailors from other lands. Now her friend Charlie needs her help. In disguise, plucky Tress sets off across the deadly spore-laden Emerald Sea to the Midnight Sea and its sorceress to rescue him. She's accompanied by a talking rat named Huck, whose high, creaky voice is delivered by Torian Brackett, and a host of pirates. Tress uses ingenuity, courage, and clues from her cups to complete her quest and rescue her friend. Davenport's upbeat tone, as well as soft background music and creative sound effects, adds joy to this humorous adventure. *M.B.K.*

GraphicAudio 10.25 hrs. Audio Program
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798890553157 $22.99

ADRIFT IN CURRENTS CLEAN AND CLEAR:
Wayward Children, Book 10

Seanan McGuire
Read by Barrie Kreinik

ADRIFT
IN
CURRENTS
CLEAN
AND
CLEAR
SEANAN
McGUIRE

As Barrie Kreinik narrates Book 10 in the Wayward Children series, listeners meet Nadya, a one-armed orphan who gets adopted. But even in her new home Nadya feels incomplete and "other." Kreinik gives a stellar performance as a child who is desperate to understand her place. One day, Nadya goes wandering to the river, where she feels at home despite her missing arm. She tumbles through an underwater portal to the land of Belyyreka, where she's accepted as one of the "drowned girls." Listeners will revel in Nadya's happiness and sense of purpose as expressed in Kreinik's narration. Kreinik also captures Nadya's conflict. Can she stay in Belyyreka with its magical talking creatures, or will her former life call her back? *L.M.G.*

Macmillan Audio 4 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250848352 $10.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781250410610 $54.99

WITCHCRAFT FOR WAYWARD GIRLS

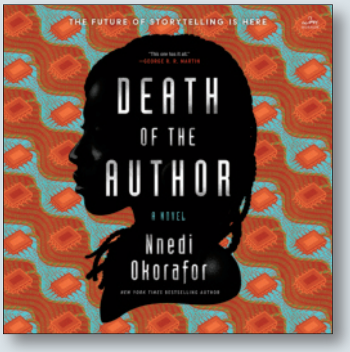
Grady Hendrix
Read by Leslie Howard, Hillary Huber, Sara Morsey

Leslie Howard, Hillary Huber, and Sara Morsey's gripping narrations bring this story to life. In 1970s Florida, 15-year-old Fern is sent to Wellwood Home, a facility for unwed mothers. Controlled by strict adults, the girls form bonds amid their struggles. When a librarian introduces Fern to a book on witchcraft, the girls discover an opportunity to reclaim their power—at a price. Howard captures Fern's innocence and growing strength with nuanced emotions and depth. Huber offers a contrasting rhythm, adding layers to the audiobook's structure. Morsey contributes emotional resonance and a reflective tone. Their combined performances enhance the narrative's tension, making it an unforgettable experience with vivid storytelling and a stand-out narration. *F.S.M.*

Penguin Audio 16.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780593907290 $25.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: ISBN 9780593907306 $95.00

DEATH OF THE AUTHOR

Nnedi Okorafor
Read by Liz Femi, Anthony Oseyemi, Jason Culp, Chris Djuma



Liz Femi is the primary narrator of this meta-narrative about a paraplegic Nigerian American woman and her unexpected rise to fame. Suddenly unemployed, Zelu risks writing a novel unlike any she's ever written before, a futuristic sci-fi epic about androids who exist after humanity becomes extinct. Femi carefully adjusts the strength of her Nigerian accent while voicing Zelu's family, perfectly conveying their judgmental attitudes and emotional distress throughout the audiobook. Interviews with male characters are voiced by Anthony Oseyemi, Jason Culp, and Chris Djuma. All the female interviews, as well as the segments of the story from the robot Ankara's point of view, are voiced by Femi, showing her impressive range of accents and vocal nuance. Femi's distinct voices complement each character's personality, thoroughly enriching this audiobook. *A.K.R.*

Harper Audio 16.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063391178 $31.99

> *Femi's distinct voices complement each character's personality.*

ALL THE WATER IN THE WORLD

Eiren Caffall
Read by Eunice Wong

Narrator Eunice Wong's voice fills with urgency as a tiny group of survivors struggles to escape a drowned Manhattan. Nonie, 13, tells the story from some years in the future, but Wong does not let this reassure listeners one whit as Nonie, her sister, their father, and Keller, an adult friend, fight their way through what Nonie calls "the world as it is." While Wong adopts a tone of vulnerability for Nonie's dialogue, she deepens her voice for the adults, occasionally injecting a tone of forced reassurance that fools neither Nonie nor listeners. She missteps with the adoption of a differentiated yet unconvincing accent for Keller, a Black man from outside of Chicago. Listeners who muscle past that will experience a world that suggests the spirit of author Octavia Butler. *V.S.*

Macmillan Audio 8.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250381323 $19.99
Library Ed.: ISBN 9781250410634 $69.99

INTERSTELLAR MEGACHEF:
Flavour Hackers, Book 1

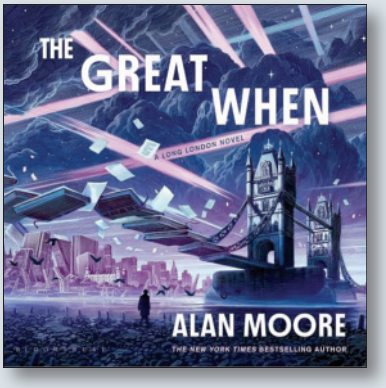
Lavanya Lakshminarayan
Read by Soneela Nankani

Think an interplanetary gastronomical showdown sounds silly? Think again. Narrator Soneela Nankani brings depth and heart to this imaginative sci-fi. Earthling Saraswati Kaveri travels to the planet Primus to compete on the elite cooking show “Interstellar MegaChef.” Things don’t go as planned, and Saras ends up cooking in a prestigious kitchen, only to face ridicule and discrimination from some bigoted, xenophobic co-workers. When Saras is offered the opportunity to help develop an innovative food simulation with the feisty but beautiful Serenity Ko, she simply can’t resist. Together, Saras and Ko build the future of food while confronting imperialism, their own ambitions, and their budding romance. Nankani’s earnest and committed narration underscores the symbolic importance of food—and its potential to tear us apart or bring us together. *A.A.H.*

Tantor Media 13.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade: ISBN 9798855546729 $24.99

THE GREAT WHEN:
London Quintet, Book 1

Alan Moore
Read by Kobna Holdbrook-Smith



Kobna Holdbrook-Smith narrates an immersive fantasy set in post-WWII London. When Dennis Knuckleyard suddenly and violently learns there is a second London alongside the one he knows, it causes his entire worldview to reshape itself. Holdbrook-Smith depicts Dennis as naïve and somewhat feckless, mostly harmless, and truly out of his depth. The vast scope of characters Dennis encounters is matched by Holdbrook-Smith’s incredible performance. The range of characters includes a young prostitute, a celebrated racing tipster, an occult artist, and many more. Subtle use of audio special effects distinguishes the two Londons, making the eerie one even weirder. Holdbrook-Smith also performs some vocal special effects himself. An afterword delivered by the author provides additional historic context. *K.M.P.*

Bloomsbury Publishing 13.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781635578867 $11.19

> *The vast scope of characters is matched by Holdbrook-Smith’s incredible performance.*

FROM BLOOD AND ASH (1 OF 2):
Blood and Ash 1

Jennifer L. Armentrout
Read by Katie Boothe, Stewart Crank, Khaya Fraites, Wyn Delano, Eric Messner, and a Full Cast

An ensemble cast dramatizes the story of Poppy, destined to be the Maiden, who struggles against a life of restrictions while secretly training to fight. Her world unravels when Hawke, a charismatic guard, questions her beliefs and ignites forbidden desires. Amid political intrigue, deadly Craven, and rising rebellion, Poppy must confront the truth about her kingdom and herself. The audiobook is a performance masterpiece brought to life by Katie Boothe and an exceptional cast. Boothe captures Poppy’s inner strength and vulnerability beautifully, while Stewart Crank delivers a compelling and enigmatic Hawke. The narrators enrich the immersive experience with distinct voices and emotional dialogue. Coupled with cinematic sound effects and music, this audiobook becomes an addictive journey into a richly crafted fantasy world. *F.S.M.*

GraphicAudio 8.25 hrs. Audio Program
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9798890552778 $29.99

A BREATHLESS SKY:
The Scorched Earth, Book 2

Veronica G. Henry
Read by Robin Miles

A BREATHLESS SKY
VERONICA G. HENRY

Golden Voice Robin Miles returns to narrate the second audiobook in the duology. The story is set in Sequoia National Park in the spring of 2043. A brother, Romelo, and sister, Syrah, take very different approaches to saving the trees from escalating climate disasters. Much of the story takes place in Rhitza, the subterranean world beneath the trees. Miles portrays Syrah’s struggle to become Keeper of Rhitza, a position committed to restoring the balance between humans and trees. In contrast, Miles depicts the rage of Romelo, who has determined that humans must go. Miles adopts a relaxed pace as she introduces a variety of humans and creatures of nature, but she expresses intense emotions as the plot reaches a crisis. *J.E.M.*

Brilliance Audio 11.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781511315159 $42.99

MEET YOUR MAKER:
Meet Your Maker, Book 1

Johnathan McClain, Seth McDuffee
Read by Johnathan McClain

Johnathan McClain narrates his irreverent fantasy about an author who is pulled into the world he created. Despite being one of the most popular fantasy writers of all time, Bruce finds himself dissatisfied. Eager to shake things up, he decides to kill off his beloved hero—only to discover himself in his own fantasy world, having replaced the former hero. McClain shifts from bombastic scenery-chewing villain to careful narrator with gleeful skill. The fantasy story is rooted in humor, and McClain nails every punchline and over-the-top joke with hilarious earnestness. This fantastic start to a new series blends humor, fantasy, and clever meta commentary on reading, writing, and fandom. *J.M.M.*

Podium 21.25 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed: ISBN 9781039452718 $85.70

BLOOD EX LIBRIS: Blood & Ancient Scrolls, Book 1

Raven Belasco
Read by Amber Benson

Amber Benson performs a fun paranormal adventure in which a librarian attempts to escape from a book-loving vampire. Anushka, better known as Noosh, has trouble filtering her thoughts, especially around a mysterious but charming stranger. The stranger, who turns out to be Vlad Dracula—Sandu in the present day—sweeps Noosh off her feet in a whirlwind romance. But she soon learns that vampire society is tearing itself apart. Benson's narration is the biggest appeal of this story; she imbues each character with a subtle voice. She even gives Sandu a unique vampire accent. She captures Noosh's inner monologue with a deft balance between the character's self-deprecating humor and endearing tone. The story stumbles a bit, but Benson keeps the performance afloat for an enjoyable listen. *J.M.M.*

Immoral Influence Publications 11 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781960942081 $24.95

AND THE SKY BLED

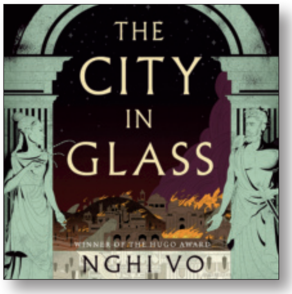
S. Hati
Read by Soneela Nankani, Neil Shah

Soneela Nankani and Neil Shah narrate an epic race among three rivals to find a hidden cache of magic in a dying city where the sky literally rains blood. The blood is an unusual caustic chemical known as "calor," which becomes a valuable but dwindling resource. Nankani and Shah take turns narrating the perspectives of a thief, a slumlord, and an heiress as they seek a means of controlling the city, not realizing they're bound by a traumatic past. Characters crackle with unique voices, and both Nankani and Shah inject tension whenever the event that binds the three rivals together is mentioned. As a thrilling treasure hunt takes place, the narrators work together to heighten the mystery that forever scarred the trio. *J.M.M.*

Podium 12.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781039484252 $71.42

THE CITY IN GLASS

Nghi Vo
Read by Susan Dalian



Susan Dalian narrates this two-arc story about love between a demon and an angel, and between a demon and her city. The demon, Vitrine, has guarded Azril and its citizens for centuries. Dalian does an outstanding job portraying this love: Vitrine is narrated as a caring mother. When angels destroy the city, Dalian captures both Vitrine's heartbreak and anger. She curses one of the angels, who is now bound to the city, and begins the long, slow process of rebuilding. Over the centuries, angel and demon learn from each other and become entangled in love and respect. Dalian embraces both characters' growth in a steady and determined narration that is a joy to hear. Love is deep and true. *L.M.G.*

Macmillan Audio 6 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250367679 $19.99

LISTEN TO YOUR SISTER

Neena Viel
Read by Kristolyn Lloyd, Eric Lockley, Zeno Robinson

THE NIGHTMARE IS REAL
Listen to
Your Sister
A NOVEL
Neena Viel

This fantastic ensemble of narrators excels equally at emotionally connecting to complicated emotional characters, elevating colloquial language, and enhancing mysterious, violent horrors. Kristolyn Lloyd portrays 25-year-old Calla as she struggles to hold her life together while raising her troubled 16-year-old brother, Jamie. Portrayed by Zeno Robinson, Jamie is reckless and frequently on the wrong side of the law. Eric Lockley depicts Dre, the uncommitted middle brother who is breaking his promise to help Calla raise Jamie. Calla would do anything to keep her brothers alive and safe, but neither sibling listens to her. And as Calla's brutal nightmares come to life, the siblings must escape to a remote cabin in the woods. A chilling and addicting performance. *A.K.R.*

Macmillan Audio 11.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9781250381378 $26.99

A chilling and addicting performance.

THE HOUSE AT WATCH HILL: The Watch Hill Trilogy, Book 1

Karen Marie Moning
Read by Amanda Leigh Cobb, Tim Campbell

Narrator Amanda Lee Cobb begins her portrayal of Zo Grey's many troubles in a depressed tone. Zo can't hold a job because she's taking care of her dying mother, a situation that adds to her financial struggles. But when a fire kills her mother, Zo's given a life-changing inheritance with some otherworldly strings. Cobb's performance matches Zo's anxiety and cautiousness as she faces her family's history. And by the way, Zo is a witch who must discover her powers and choose a coven. Tim Campbell adds a sonorous baritone counterpoint to Cobb's narration. Cobb's Zo grows in character and confidence as the coven reveals family secrets and the effects of the momentous changes in her life. This first novel in a planned trilogy hooks the listener and promises many witchy adventures. *R.O.*

Harper Audio 11.5 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: ISBN 9780063249233 $27.99

THE PECULIAR GARDEN OF HARRIET HUNT

Chelsea Iversen
Read by Anna Burnett

Anna Burnett's soft, precise voice is the ideal vehicle for this gothic novel about a young Victorian woman and her sentient garden. Harriet, who was psychologically abused by her uncaring father in the years after her mother's death, has been breathing easier following his disappearance. But when an inspector starts sniffing around, Harriet decides marriage to the seemingly kind Mr. Comstock will shield her. She's wrong, but her garden's ready to help. Burnett's even delivery allows listeners to believe in Harriet's watchful roses and affectionate ivy. She lends Harriet a timorous vulnerability, and her standard English accent modulates to a broader London one for Harriet's spunky maid. Burnett's attention to details like class and regionality carry listeners over the story's occasional inauthentic moment. Sensitive and satisfying. *V.S.*

Recorded Books 10.5 hrs. Unabridged
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9798892736893 $25.00
(also CD, MP3)

WATER MOON

Samantha Sotto Yambao
Read by Cindy Kay

Cindy Kay sweeps listeners away with this memorable otherworldly story. On the day Hana is due to inherit her family's pawnshop, where people from our world can trade away their greatest choices and regrets, she wakes to find it ransacked. Also, her father is missing, and one of their precious choices is gone. Kay's narration balances a story that alternates between being dreamy and being thrilling. Hana's world is full of beautiful magic and mystery, but there's grave danger, too. She's desperate to find that missing choice before it's too late. Hana is joined by Kei, a scientist from our world, who is voiced with straightforward charm. Kei willingly joins Hana's quest despite the risk, and the two tumble into a star-crossed romance. *E.E.C.*

Random House Audio 9.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593946343 $22.50
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593946350 $95.00

THE WOOD AT MIDWINTER

Susanna Clarke
Read by Susanna Clarke

A short story from the bestselling author of PIRANESI and JONATHAN STRANGE & MR NORRELL
Susanna Clarke
THE WOOD AT MIDWINTER
BLOOMSBURY

Susanna Clarke's spellbinding performance of this enhanced audiobook brings out the alluring beauty of this mystical tale. Nineteen-year-old Merowdis Scot is most at home when she's walking in the woods with her dogs and Apple, her pig. Evocative sound effects and music add to Clarke's haunting narration, highlighting Merowdis's deep connection to nature as she engages with the trees and animals around her. The theatrical sensory experience intensifies the mystery of Merowdis's encounters with a blackbird, a fox, and a strange figure, all of whom foreshadow a life-transforming vision. While this immersive imaginative journey may be too vivid for easily spooked youngsters, children and adults who enjoy mysterious wintery tales set in nature may find this a magical listening experience. *M.F.*

Bloomsbury Publishing 34 mins. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9781639734733 $7.00

A magical listening experience.

THE IMPROVISERS

Nicole Glover
Read by Bahni Turpin

Bahni Turpin gives voice to an appealing heroine in this compelling fantasy mystery set in the U.S. during the early 1930s, when Prohibition outlaws both alcohol and some magic. Stunt pilot and former bootlegger Velma Frye also works for a magical rights group. A murder investigation leads her to the existence of magical objects that cause harm, and tracking them down takes Velma—along with Dillon Harris, a tenacious reporter Velma is slowly growing closer to—across the country in her plane. Turpin's skilled performance keeps the large cast of African American characters sounding unique and recognizable. Velma herself sounds smart, resourceful, and confident, whether she's wielding celestial magic or flying her plane (or doing both at the same time). It's an action-packed adventure in a fascinating alternate version of our world. *J.M.D.*

The IMPROVISERS
NICOLE GLOVER

Harper Audio 14.75 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780063293618 $27.99

SO THIRSTY

Rachel Harrison
Read by Brittany Pressley

Narrator Brittany Pressley gives energy to a bizarre midlife crisis in this refreshing horror audiobook. Pressley skillfully portrays Sloane Parker, who is the voice of indifference as she approaches her 40s. When Sloane's unfaithful husband gives her a resort weekend getaway with her wild best friend, Naomi, Sloane's future begins to, well, bite—not to give too much away. Harrison's novel supplies much for Pressley to chew on, especially the necessary accents of the multinational troupe that becomes Sloane and Naomi's new "family." Pressley also captures the snark that is the main ingredient of the best friends' conversations. Pressley's vocal talents ensure that listeners are willing to suspend disbelief as the story depicts Sloane and Naomi's strange new lives. *D.E.M.*

Penguin Audio 9 hrs. Unabridged
Trade Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593911334 $20.00
Books on Tape
Library Ed.: DD ISBN 9780593911341 $95.00

Index of Print Reviews *April/May 2025*

ADAM & EVIE’S MATCHMAKING TOUR . . . 44
Nora Nguyen . . . Read by Ewan Chung, Viet Thanh Nguyen

ADRIFT IN CURRENTS CLEAN AND CLEAR . . . 64
Seanan McGuire . . . Read by Barrie Kreinik

AFTER LIFE . . . 35
Gayle Forman . . . Read by Gail Shalan,
. . . Jade Wheeler, Andrew J. Andersen

AGAINST THE GRAIN . . . 52
Peter Lovesey . . . Read by James Langton

ALL THE WATER IN THE WORLD . . . 64
Eiren Caffall . . . Read by Eunice Wong

ALTER EGO . . . 54
Alex Segura . . . Read by Frankie Corzo

🎧 **AND SHE WAS LOVED** . . . 32
Andrea Davis Pinkney . . . Read by Andrea Davis Pinkney

AND THE SKY BLED . . . 66
S. Hati . . . Read by Soneela Nankani, Neil Shah

ANSWERED PRAYERS . . . 57
Truman Capote . . . Read by Kirby Heyborne

ASCENT TO POWER . . . 63
David L. Roll . . . Read by Mark Bramhall

ASSUME NOTHING . . . 55
Joshua Corin . . . Read by Lauren Fortgang

🎧 **THE AUTHOR’S GUIDE TO MURDER** . . . 55
Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig, Karen White . . .
. . . Read by Angus King, Saskia Maarleveld, et al.

🎧 **BAD BADGER** . . . 25
Maryrose Wood . . . Read by Chris Devon

A BANH MI FOR TWO . . . 36
Trinity Nguyen . . . Read by Carolina Do, VyVy Nguyen

🎧 **BEEN WRONG SO LONG IT FEELS LIKE RIGHT** . . . 49
Walter Mosley . . . Read by Dion Graham

BEFORE WE FORGET KINDNESS . . . 43
Toshikazu Kawaguchi . . . Read by Kevin Shen

BEHIND EVERY GOOD MAN . . . 42
Sara Goodman Confino . . . Read by Helen Laser

🎧 **THE BEST AMERICAN ESSAYS 2024** . . . 22
Wesley Morris, Kim Dana Kupperman [Eds.] . . .
. . . Read by Emily Rankin, Cary Hite, et al.

🎧 **BIG CHIEF** . . . 43
Jon Hickey . . . Read by Shaun Taylor-Corbett

BITTER PASSAGE . . . 52
Colin Mills . . . Read by Steve West

🎧 **BLACK GIRL YOU ARE ATLAS** . . . 36
Renée Watson . . . Read by Renée Watson

BLACK IN BLUES . . . 63
Imani Perry . . . Read by Imani Perry

🎧 **THE BLACK UTOPIANS** . . . 62
Aaron Robertson . . . Read by Dion Graham

BLOOD EX LIBRIS . . . 66
Raven Belasco . . . Read by Amber Benson

THE BLUE HOUR . . . 54
Paula Hawkins . . . Read by Gemma Whelan

🎧 **BLUES IN STEREO** . . . 57
Langston Hughes, Danez Smith [Ed.] . . . Read by Danez Smith

🎧 **BONDED IN DEATH** . . . 48
J.D. Robb . . . Read by Susan Ericksen

THE BOOKSTORE KEEPERS . . . 40
Alice Hoffman . . . Read by Jennifer Jill Araya

THE BORDER BETWEEN US . . . 43
Rudy Ruiz . . . Read by Eddie Lopez

A BREATHLESS SKY . . . 65
Veronica G. Henry . . . Read by Robin Miles

🎧 **BROWN GIRL, BROWN GIRL** . . . 31
Leslé Honoré . . . Read by Leslé Honoré

BUSYBODIES . . . 54
Elle Cosimano, Jesse Q. Sutanto, et al. . . .
. . . Read by Megan Tusing, Eunice Wong, et al.

A CENTURY OF TOMORROWS . . . 22
Glenn Adamson . . . Read by Glenn Adamson

THE CITY IN GLASS . . . 66
Nghi Vo . . . Read by Susan Dalian

🎧 **CLEAN POINT** . . . 47
Meg Jones . . . Read by Mary Jane Wells, Patrick Zeller

A CLEVER ALLIANCE . . . 44
Laura Beers . . . Read by Sasha Higgins

THE COIN . . . 40
Yasmin Zaher . . . Read by Sarah Agha

THE COLLABORATORS . . . 52
Michael Idov . . . Read by Santino Fontana

THE CONTROL OF NATURE . . . 23
John McPhee . . . Read by Grover Gardner

DEADBEAT . . . 53
Adam Hamdy . . . Read by Chris Henry Coffey

🎧 **DEAR MANNY** . . . 25
Nic Stone . . . Read by James Fouhey, Nic Stone

🎧 **A DEATH IN DIAMONDS** . . . 55
S.J. Bennett . . . Read by Samantha Bond

DEATH IN THE DOWNLINE . . . 49
Maria Abrams . . .
. . . Read by Megan Tusing, Mia Hutchinson-Shaw

🎧 **DEATH OF THE AUTHOR** . . . 64
Nnedi Okorafor . . . Read by Liz Femi, Anthony Oseyemi,
. . . Jason Culp, Chris Djuma

DEATH’S COUNTRY . . . 35
R.M. Romero . . . Read by Giordan Diaz

DECEIVED BY THE LIGHT . . . 53
Damien Boyd . . . Read by Nicholas Boulton

🎧 **DEVOTIONS** . . . 56
Mary Oliver . . . Read by Kimberly Farr

DIRTBAG QUEEN . . . 61
Andy Corren . . . Read by Andy Corren

🎧 **THE DISAPPEARED** . . . 39
Rebecca J. Sanford . . . Read by Carolina Hoyos

THE DUKE AT HAZARD . . . 44
KJ Charles . . . Read by Cornell Collins

THE EAGLE AND THE HART . . . 63
Helen Castor . . . Read by Helen Castor

THE EMPRESS OF COOKE COUNTY . . . 39
Elizabeth Bass Parman . . . Read by Brittany Pressley

THE ENEMY’S DAUGHTER . . . 29
Anne Blankman . . . Read by Saskia Maarleveld

EVERY ARC BENDS ITS RADIAN . . . 54
Sergio De La Pava . . . Read by Lee Osorio

🎧 **THE FALL OF THE HOUSE OF TATTERLY** . . . 29
Shanna Miles . . . Read by JD Jackson

FATAL GAMBIT . . . 52
David Lagercrantz, Ian Giles [Trans.] . . . Read by Simon Vance

🎧 **A FIVE-LETTER WORD FOR LOVE** . . . 46
Amy James . . . Read by Katie Koster

🎧 **FOOD FOR THOUGHT** . . . 22
Alton Brown . . . Read by Alton Brown

FRAMED . . . 21
John Grisham, Jim McCloskey . . . Read by Michael Beck,
. . . John Grisham, Jim McCloskey [Preface]

FROM BLOOD AND ASH (1 OF 2) . . . 65
Jennifer L. Armentrout . . . Read by Katie Boothe,
. . . Stewart Crank, Khaya Fraites, Wyn Delano,
. . . Eric Messner, and a Full Cast

GABRIEL’S MOON . . . 48
William Boyd . . . Read by George Blagden

THE GIRL WHO BUILT AN OCEAN . . . 32
Jess Keating . . . Read by Hannah Van Der Westhuysen

🎧 **GIRLS LIKE HER** . . . 37
Melanie Sumrow . . Read by January LaVoy, Melanie Sumrow

THE GLASS MENAGERIE . . . 56
Tennessee Williams . . .
. . . Read by Calista Flockhart, John Goodman, et al.

GO TELL IT . . . 33
Quartez Harris . . . Read by Shamaan Casey

🎧 **THE GOLDEN SHIELD** . . . 56
Anchuli Felicia King . . .
. . . Read by Fang Du, Greg Germann, et al.

GOOD DIRT . . . 38
Charmaine Wilkerson . . . Read by January LaVoy

THE GRAND SCHEME OF THINGS . . . 38
Warona Jay . . . Read by Ony Uhiara, Sam Stafford

🎧 **GRANDDAUGHTER** . . . 43
Bernhard Schlink, Charlotte Collins [Trans.] . . .
. . . Read by Richard Burnip, Sarah Moule

🎧 **THE GREAT WHEN** . . . 65
Alan Moore . . . Read by Kobna Holdbrook-Smith

THE GREATEST NOBODIES OF HISTORY . . . 63
Adrian Bliss . . . Read by Adrian Bliss, Beth Rylance,
. . . Sebastian Humphreys, Kristin Atherton

HAPPY & SAD & EVERYTHING TRUE . . . 28
Alex Thayer . . . Read by Caitlin Kelly

HARBINGERS . . . 21
Timothy J. Heaphy . . . Read by Matt Godfrey

THE HARDER I FIGHT, THE MORE I LOVE YOU . . 60
Neko Case . . . Read by Neko Case

🎧 **THE HEART OF WINTER** . . . 40
Jonathan Evison . . . Read by Kimberly Farr

HEAVENLY TYRANT . . . 34
Xiran Jay Zhao . . . Read by Rong Fu

HER KNIGHT AT THE MUSEUM . . . 46
Bryn Donovan . . . Read by Brittany Pressley

🎧 **HIROSHIMA** . . . 62
M.G. Sheftall . . . Read by Brian Nishii

THE HOUSE AT WATCH HILL . . . 66
Karen Marie Moning . . .
. . . Read by Amanda Leigh Cobb, Tim Campbell

HOUSE OF ELEPHANTS . . . 28
Claribel A. Ortega . . . Read by Cyrina Fiallo

🎧 **HOW SWEET THE SOUND** . . . 24
Kwame Alexander . . . Read by Karen Murray

HOW TO BE ENOUGH . . . 59
Ellen Hendriksen . . . Read by Ellen Hendriksen

HOW TO FEED THE WORLD . . . 22
Vaclav Smil . . . Read by Joe Jameson

I DID SOMETHING BAD . . . 45
Pyae Moe Thet War . . . Read by Jacqui Bardelang

I MADE IT OUT OF CLAY . . . 40
Beth Kander . . . Read by Gail Shalan

THE IMPROVISERS . . . 67
Nicole Glover . . . Read by Bahni Turpin

🎧 **IN THE DISTANCE** . . . 39
Hernan Diaz . . . Read by Alexander Skarsgard

THE IN-BETWEEN BOOKSTORE . . . 41
Edward Underhill . . . Read by Shaan Dasani

INFERNO’S HEIR . . . 37
Tiffany Wang . . . Read by Natalie Naudus

INGRAINED . . . 60
Callum Robinson . . . Read by Callum Robinson

INKBOUND: METICULOUS JONES AND THE SKULL TATTOO . . . 29
Philippa Leathley . . . Read by Ell Potter

INTERSTELLAR MEGACHEF . . . 65
Lavanya Lakshminarayan . . . Read by Soneela Nankani

🎧 **ISAAC’S SONG** . . . 38
Daniel Black . . . Read by JD Jackson

🎧 **THE ISLANDERS** . . . 41
Lewis Robinson . . . Read by Evan Sibley

THE JEWEL OF THE ISLE . . . 45
Kerry Rea . . . Read by Andrew Eiden, Emily Lawrence

JULIA CHILD’S KITCHEN . . . 62
Paula J. Johnson, Jacques Pépin [Fore.] . . .
. . . Read by Elizabeth Wiley, Jacques Pépin

🎧 Exceptional audiobooks awarded “Earphones.”

🎧 **KING: A LIFE (YOUNG ADULT EDITION)** 34
Jonathan Eig, Yohuru Williams, Michael G. Long [Adapt.]. . . . . Read by Dion Graham

KNIFE SKILLS FOR BEGINNERS 48
Orlando Murrin . . . . . . Read by Sebastian Humphreys

THE LAST BOOKSTORE ON EARTH 34
Lily Braun-Arnold . . . . . . Read by Bailey Carr

LAZARUS MAN 42
Richard Price . . . . . . Read by Robb Moreira

LIBERTAD 35
Bessie Flores Zaldívar . . . . . . Read by Spring Inés Peña

LIES ON THE SERPENT'S TONGUE 37
Kate Pearsall . . . . . . Read by Julie Webster

A LIFE IN THE GARDEN 23
Barbara Damrosch . . . . . . Read by Marni Penning

🎧 **LISTEN TO YOUR SISTER** 66
Neena Viel . . . . . . Read by Kristolyn Lloyd, ... Eric Lockley, Zeno Robinson

🎧 **LIVING ON EARTH** 23
Peter Godfrey-Smith . . . . . . Read by Peter Godfrey-Smith, Mitch Riley

THE LOST HOUSE 49
Melissa Larsen . . . . . . Read by Saskia Maarleveld

A MAP FOR FALASTEEN 33
Maysa Odeh . . . . . . Read by Dalia Ramahi

MARJORY'S RIVER OF GRASS 32
Josie James . . . . . . Read by Elizabeth Wiley

MEET YOUR MAKER 65
Johnathan McClain, Seth McDuffee . . . . . . Read by Johnathan McClain

MEMORIAL DAYS 60
Geraldine Brooks . . . . . . Read by Geraldine Brooks

MISMATCHED 37
Anne Camlin . . Read by Mark Sanderlin, Jordan Cobb, et al.

MONEY FOR COUPLES 58
Ramit Sethi . . . . . . Read by Ramit Sethi

MOONSTORM 34
Yoon Ha Lee . . . . . . Read by Ami Park

MOTHERS AND SONS 39
Adam Haslett . . . . . Read by Andrew Gibson, Janet Metzger

MOUSE AND HIS DOG 31
Katherine Applegate, Gennifer Choldenko . . . . . . Read by Daniel Henning

MY GOOD BRIGHT WOLF 61
Sarah Moss . . . . . . Read by Morven Christie

THE MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR AT STYLES 57
Agatha Christie . . . . . . Read by Joel Froomkin

THE NAMING OF THE BIRDS 49
Paraic O'Donnell . . . . . . Read by Charles Armstrong

NIGHT FLYER 62
Tiya Miles, Henry Louis Gates, Jr. . . Read by Janina Edwards

NO PURCHASE NECESSARY 31
Maria Marianayagam . . . . . . Read by Rama Krishna Vallury

NOBODY'S HERO 53
M.W. Craven . . . . . . Read by William Hope

NOT FOR THE FAINT OF HEART 36
Lex Croucher . . . . . . Read by Olivia Dowd, Kit Griffiths

THE NOTE 53
Alafair Burke . . . . . . Read by Catherine Ho

OLD SCHOOL 28
Gordon Korman . . . . . . Read by Michael Crouch et al.

ON A WING AND A TEAR 28
Cynthia L. Smith . . . . . . Read by Shaun Taylor-Corbett

ON THE HIPPIE TRAIL 60
Rick Steves . . . . . . Read by Rick Steves

ONE DAY, EVERYONE WILL HAVE ALWAYS BEEN AGAINST THIS 21
Omar El Akkad . . . . . . Read by Omar El Akkad

ONE ON ONE 47
Jamie Harrow . . . . . . Read by Kyla Garcia

🎧 **THE PAIRING** 47
Casey McQuiston . . . . . Read by Emma Galvin, Max Meyers

THE PECULIAR GARDEN OF HARRIET HUNT 67
Chelsea Iversen . . . . . . Read by Anna Burnett

🎧 **THE PERFECT HOME** 52
Daniel Kenitz . . . Read by Michael Crouch, Amanda Stribling

PERFECT IS BORING (AND IT TASTES LIKE KALE) 58
Jess Johnston . . . . . . Read by Jess Johnston

PIPPI LONGSTOCKING 24
Astrid Lindgren, Susan Beard [Trans.] . Read by Sutton Foster

🎧 **A PLATE OF HOPE** 32
Erin Frankel . . . . . . Read by Luis Carlos de La Lombana

PONY CONFIDENTIAL 55
Christina Lynch . . . . . . Read by Erin Moon, Blair Young

PRETTY DEAD THINGS 48
Lilian West . . . . . . Read by Devon Sorvari

PUCK AND PREJUDICE 47
Lia Riley . . . . . . Read by Will Damron

QUEERCEAÑERA 36
Alex Crespo . . . . . . Read by André Santana

🎧 **THE QUIET LIBRARIAN** 40
Allen Eskens . . . . . . Read by Ilvana Muratovic

RADIANT 31
Vaunda Micheaux Nelson . . . . . . Read by Vaunda Micheaux Nelson

REALM OF ICE AND SKY 62
Buddy Levy . . . . . . Read by Will Damron

REMEMBER ME TOMORROW 45
Farah Heron . . . . . . Read by Soneela Nankani

THE RIVETER 43
Jack Wang . . . . . . Read by Feodor Chin

ROMAN YEAR 61
André Aciman . . . . . . Read by Edoardo Ballerini

THE ROMANTIC TRAGEDIES OF A DRAMA KING 36
Harry Trevaldwyn . . . . . . Read by Harry Trevaldwyn

ROSARITA 39
Anita Desai . . . . . . Read by Meera Simhan

THE ROSE TATTOO 57
Tennessee Williams . . . . . . Read by Emily Bergl, ... MarieClare Costello, et al.

THE SCORPION QUEEN 37
Mina Fears . . . . . . Read by Sandra Okuboyejo

🎧 **SCOTLAND YARD** 63
Simon Read . . . . . . Read by Harry Myers

A SEA OF UNSPOKEN THINGS 49
Adrienne Young . . . . . . Read by Christine Lakin

THE SIRENS' CALL 59
Chris Hayes . . . . . . Read by Chris Hayes

🎧 **SISTERS IN SCIENCE** 61
Olivia Campbell . . . . . . Read by Cassandra Campbell

SO THIRSTY 67
Rachel Harrison . . . . . . Read by Brittany Pressley

SOME DO NOT 57
Ford Madox Ford . . . . . . Read by Rupert Degas

🎧 **SOMETHING EXTRAORDINARY** 46
Alexis Hall . . . . . . Read by Ell Potter, Steve West

🎧 **THE SOUND OF US** 46
Sarah Castille . . . . . . Read by Lila Winters, Thomas Oakley

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING 41
Debbie Johnson . . . . . . Read by Louise Williams

STEALING LITTLE MOON 29
Dan SasuWeh Jones . . . . . . Read by Shaun Taylor-Corbett, ... Dan SaSuWeh Jones, Denise K. Lajimodiere

STILL LIFE AT EIGHTY 61
Abigail Thomas . . . . . . Read by Abigail Thomas

STILL LIFE WITH REMORSE 60
Maira Kalman . . . . . . Read by Maira Kalman

THE STOLEN QUEEN 42
Fiona Davis . . . . . . Read by Linda Jones

STORIES OF THE SPIRIT OF JUSTICE 33
Jemar Tisby . . . . . . Read by Jemar Tisby

🎧 **SYME'S LETTER WRITER** 21
Rachel Syme . . . . . . Read by Rachel Syme, Rebecca Bact

TARTUFO 41
Kira Jane Buxton . . . . . . Read by Caroline Hewitt

TAXI GHOST 28
Sophie Escabasse . . . . . . Read by Kathleen McInerney, ... Danny Campbell, et al.

THREE DAYS IN JUNE 38
Anne Tyler . . . . . . Read by J. Smith-Cameron

TIDY UP YOUR LIFE 58
Tyler Moore . . . . . . Read by Tyler Moore

🎧 **TO DIE FOR** 53
David Baldacci . . . . . . Read by Zach Villa, Mela Lee, et al.

THE TREASURE HUNTERS CLUB 55
Tom Ryan . . . . . . Read by Graham Halstead

TRESS OF THE EMERALD SEA 64
Brandon Sanderson . . . . . . Read by Chris Davenport, Crystal Lee, and a Full Cast

🎧 **A TRUE VERDICT** 54
Robert Rotstein . . . . . . Read by Sean Pratt, Phil Thron, et al.

THE UNBECOMING OF MARGARET WOLF 42
Isa Arsén . . . . . . Read by Saskia Maarleveld, Isa Arsén

UNCOVERING DINOSAUR BEHAVIOR 23
David Hone . . . . . . Read by Graham Mack

UNDER ATTACK 29
Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch . . . . . . Read by Anna Fikhman

🎧 **UNDER THE SAME STARS** 35
Libba Bray . . . . . . Read by January LaVoy, ... Jeremy Carlisle Parker, Major Curda

VALLEY SO LOW 21
Jared Sullivan . . . Read by Lee Osorio, Jared Sullivan [Note]

🎧 **WAITING FOR THE LONG NIGHT MOON** . . . 41
Amanda Peters . . . . . Read by Megan Tooley, Ussani Taylor

WARHOL AFTER WARHOL 22
Richard Dorment . . . . . . Read by Peter Noble

WATER MOON 67
Samantha Sotto Yambao . . . . . . Read by Cindy Kay

WHAT FELL FROM THE SKY 30
Adrianna Cuevas . . . Read by Giordan Diaz, P.J. Morgan, et al.

WHEN THE STAMMER CAME TO STAY 33
Maggie O'Farrell . . . . . . Read by Aoife McMahon

WHEN WE SOLD GOD'S EYE 23
Alex Cuadros . . . . . . Read by Alex Cuadros

WHERE THE LIBRARY HIDES 35
Isabel Ibañez . . . . . . Read by Ahmed Hamad, Ana Osorio

WHO OWNS THE MOON? 34
Cynthia Levinson, Jennifer Swanson Read by Jaime Lamchick

WILL'S RACE FOR HOME 31
Jewell Parker Rhodes . . . . . . Read by Christopher Hampton

WITCHCRAFT FOR WAYWARD GIRLS 64
Grady Hendrix . . . . . . Read by Leslie Howard, ... Hillary Huber, Sara Morsey

🎧 **THE WOOD AT MIDWINTER** 67
Susanna Clarke . . . . . . Read by Susanna Clarke

A WORLD WORTH SAVING 27
Kyle Lukoff . . . . . . Read by Will Malloy, Kyle Lukoff

THE YELLOW WALLPAPER AND OTHER STORIES 56
Charlotte Perkins Gilman . . . . . . Read by Laurel Lefkow

YOU ARE HERE 56
Ada Limón [Ed.] . . . . . . Read by Kim Ramirez

For ^hundreds more reviews, visit audiofilemagazine.com

2025 Odyssey Awards and Newbery Medal

Each year, the American Library Association honors the best audiobooks produced for children and young adults with its Odyssey Award. One of this year's winners, *How the Boogeyman Became a Poet*, was also one of *AudioFile*'s Best Audiobooks of 2024.

Odyssey Award for Young Adults

HOW THE BOOGEYMAN BECAME A POET

Tony Keith, Jr., read by Tony Keith, Jr.

Hip-hop artist Tony Keith, Jr., narrates his free-verse coming-of-age memoir. His skill as a narrator is evident as he delivers lyrical imagery mixed with dialect. Sound effects illuminate the poems' themes: Drums aid listeners in picturing the richness of African imagery in one poem; in another listeners hear the murmurs of a cafeteria. His pacing and tone allow listeners to feel the power of his words and imagine his world.

Harper Audio Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: DD

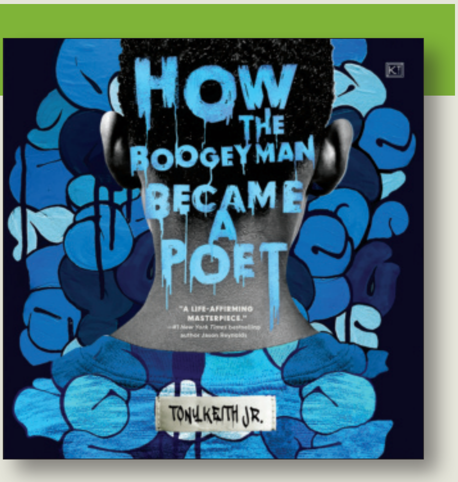
Odyssey Award for Children

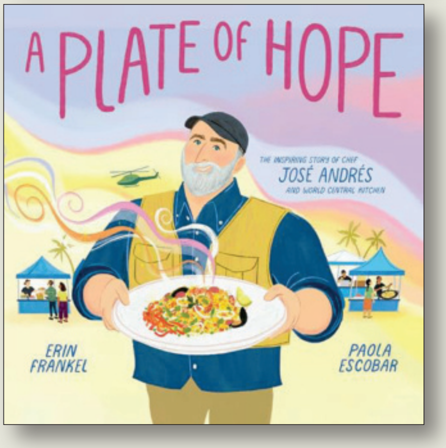
A PLATE OF HOPE: The Inspiring Story of Chef José Andrés and World Central Kitchen

Erin Frankel, read by Luis Carlos de La Lombana

Like chef José Andrés, the subject of this picture-book biography, this audiobook is the perfect blend of excellent ingredients. Soft Spanish guitar throughout reflects Andrés's background. Sound effects like sizzling dishes accent events in Andrés's life. Luis Carlos de La Lombana's narration has an emotional tone that encourages listening.

Dreamscape Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: DD


HOW THE BOOGEYMAN BECAME A POET
"A LIFE-AFFIRMING MASTERPIECE." —#1 New York Times bestselling author Jason Reynolds
TONY KEITH JR.


A PLATE OF HOPE
THE INSPIRING STORY OF CHEF JOSÉ ANDRÉS AND WORLD CENTRAL KITCHEN
ERIN FRANKEL
PAOLA ESCOBAR

WINNER OF THE NEWBERY MEDAL FOR HELLO, UNIVERSE
ERIN ENTRADA KELLY
Tomorrow begins today
The FIRST STATE OF BEING

Newbery Medal

THE FIRST STATE OF BEING

Erin Entrada Kelley,
read by Ramón de Ocampo

Michael and his crush, Gibby, run into Ridge, a strange boy who soon reveals he's visiting from the future. The year is 1999, and with the threat of Y2K brewing, the kids come together and bond through their doomsday planning. Ramón de Ocampo's flexible narration moves between many characters smoothly and adds brightness to the trio as they navigate their emotions and learn the importance of family.

Harper Audio Unabridged Ages 8+
Trade Ed.: DD

Odyssey Honors

BLACK GIRL YOU ARE ATLAS

Renée Watson, read by Renée Watson

Renée Watson narrates her semiautobiographical collection of free-verse and short-form poems, which introduce listeners to the lyricism of her writing. Her delivery features repeated rhythmic patterns, haunting repetitions, and startling imagery. Watson's voice is as deep and rich as her material.

Listening Library Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: DD
Library Ed.: DD

DISPATCHES FROM PARTS UNKNOWN

Bryan Bliss, read by Joy Nash

Joy Nash does a great job voicing both teen Julie, who is finding her way after losing her father at the start of high school, and "the Masked Man," a professional wrestler who makes occasional snide remarks that only Julie can hear. An entertaining and heartwarming story.

Harper Audio Unabridged Ages 12+
Trade Ed.: DD

GIRLS LIKE HER

Melanie Sumrow, read by January LaVoy, Melanie Sumrow

Sullen, angry 14-year-old Ruby is accused of murder and is facing being moved to an adult women's prison, and compassionate Cadence Ware is a calm social worker who persuades Ruby to tell her story. January LaVoy provides tension to the driving narrative, and sound effects of snippets of conversations, courtroom proceedings, letters, and newspaper articles enhance the production.

Harper Audio Unabridged Ages 14+
Trade Ed.: DD

YOU ARE BRAVE

Margaret O'Hair, Sofia Sanchez, read by Sofia Sanchez

Teen Ukrainian American actress Sofia Sanchez's halting, uneven narration is quickly explained by her self-description: "I have Down syndrome . . . and I want to inspire people and make a difference." Her narrative is yet another representation of the amazing things she's accomplished because of her bravery.

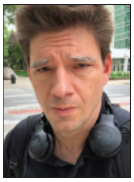
Scholastic Audiobooks Unabridged Ages 4-6
Trade Ed.: DD
Library Ed.: DD

M.F.

M.R.

R.C.G.

M.B.K.	Miriam B. Kahn, *Librarian*, OH
M.F.	Maya Fleischmann, *Writer*, VA
M.J.	Michelle J. Ritholz, *Audiophile*, NY
M.R.	Mohana Rajakumar, *Qatar University*, Qatar
M.T.F.	Michael T. Fein, *Retired Librarian*, VA
N.E.M.	Nancy E. McCarty, *Educator*, PA
N.M.	Natalie Marshall, *Librarian*, GA
N.M.C.	Nancy M. Campbell, *Audiophile*, WA
R.C.G.	Richard C. Gotshall, *Retired Journalist*, IN
R.O.	Randy O'Brien, *Educator*, TN
R.W.S.	Richard W. Stim, *Producer*, CA
S.D.B.	Stephanie Bange, *Librarian*, OH
S.E.G.	Sara E. Grimm, *Librarian*, IL
S.G.B.	Susan G. Baird, *Librarian*, IL
S.J.H.	S.J. Henschel, *Editor*, NY
S.K.G.	Shanyn Gamble, *Audiophile*, WA
S.P.C.	Stephen Cummings, *Audiophile*, IA
S.S.	Shayna Szabo, *Librarian*, CA
S.W.	Susie Wilde, *Writer*, NC
T.W.	Tom Walken, *Writer*, NC
V.B.	Victoria Biggs, *Editor*, TX
V.S.	Vicky Smith, *Portland Public Library*, ME
V.T.M.	Van McGary, *Librarian*, IL
W.A.G.	William A. Giwertz, *Educator*, CA
W.M.	William Mingin, *Writer*, NJ


S.P.C.

V.T.M.

W.M.

Advertiser Directory

Company	Ad Page	Service
ARCNOVELS arcnovels.com	12	publisher
AUDIBLE PARADE PRODUCTIONS audibleparade.com	13	publisher
AUDIO FLICKS audioflicksproductions@gmail.com	14	publisher
BEACON PRESS beacon.org	12	publisher
BLOOMSBURY PUBLISHING bloomsbury.com	14	publisher
BOLINDA AUDIO bolinda.com	Inside Front Cover	🅿 publisher
BREAKING POINT: **A Novel of the Battle of Britain** johnrhodesbooks.com	10	publisher
CHRISTINE FALLERT KESSIDES ckessides@gmail.com	14	publisher
DOUG LEVY/ HERO REDEFINED authordouglevy.com	10	publisher
DREAMSCAPE AUDIO dreamscapepublishing.com	1	🅿 publisher
FULL CAST AUDIO fullcastaudio.com	10	publisher
GROUND CHERRY PRESS groundcherrypress.com	13	publisher
L.A. THEATRE WORKS latw.org/catalog	1	🅿 publisher
MACMILLAN AUDIO us.macmillan.com	4	🅿 publisher
POST HYPNOTIC PRESS INC. posthypnoticpress.com	10, 12, 14, 15	publisher
THE RED HOTEL LLC redhotelseries.com	11	publisher
RILLA ASKEW rillaaskew.com	15	publisher
SCHOLASTIC AUDIOBOOKS scholastic.com	Back Cover	🅿 publisher
SUEMEDIA PRODUCTIONS/ SUE ZIZZA suemedia1@aol.com	15	publisher
WINTER FOX BOOKS winterfoxbooks@gmail.com	15	publisher
YU-AIRIT AUDIO WORKS gheneth@hotmail.com	13	publisher

Web Site Exclusives

🅿 Premier Publishers—
a handy way to view reviews, author interviews, and new releases from a selected publisher. Check out the 🅿 Premier Publishers above at **audiofilemagazine.com/reviews**

Advertiser Hot Links

In the digital edition of the magazine, follow hot links to new titles, sound samples, and special offers and services for listeners.

AudioFile
Connect directly to publisher Web & social media sites
Click through to publishers' new titles and special offers

Photo by Amira Mahoud

Maryrose Wood

Author, Bari, Italy

Maryrose Wood loves writing books for young people. "I think all of us can remember the book that we read or had read to us that just blew our minds and somehow became part of who we are and how we see the world." Wood's latest, *Bad Badger*, is the story of a friendship between a badger and a gull who live in a seaside Italian town. "There's a great Italian tradition called the passeggiata—after you have a meal, or maybe before dinner you have an aperitivo, and you go for a walk. We have a beautiful walkway along the Adriatic here in the city where I live, and it is the best place for me to listen. I just put in my little earpods and I go for a stroll."—*Jennifer M. Dowell*

Editors' Note: See the review of *Bad Badger* on page 25.

I'm Your Neighbor Books

The voice of immigrant welcoming

I'm Your Neighbor Books is rolling **Welcoming Libraries** into schools and libraries nationwide.

These award-winning collections of **Immigrant and New Generation children's books** build the welcoming skills of all students while creating a crucial sense of belonging for multi-lingual students and their families.

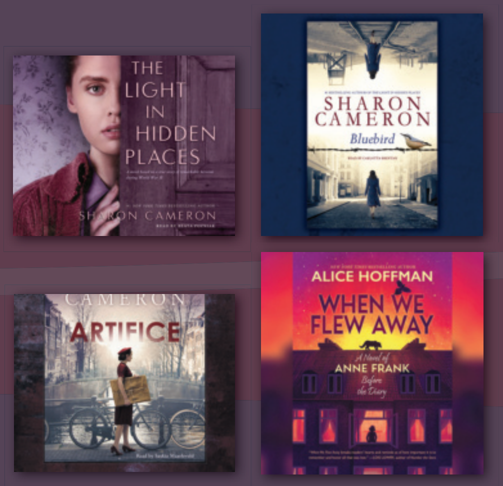
Thanks to **AudioFile Magazine**, Welcoming Libraries now include **Wonderbooks**! These print books with embedded audiobook players allow readers to turn the pages with the voice of the community in their earphones.

STUDIO MONITOR
NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER FROM THE NEWBERY HONOR-WINNING CREATOR OF ROLLER GIRL
WHEN STARS ARE SCATTERED
NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST
VICTORIA JAMIESON AND OMAR MOHAMED

SCHOLASTIC
AUDIOBOOKS

YOUR NEXT AUDIO OBSESSION IS HERE.

PERFECT FOR FANS OF HISTORICAL FICTION


THE LIGHT IN HIDDEN PLACES
SHARON CAMERON
SHARON CAMERON
Bluebird
CAMERON
ARTIFICE
ALICE HOFFMAN
WHEN WE FLEW AWAY
A Novel of ANNE FRANK Before the Diary

PERFECT FOR FANS OF DARK ROMANCE

KELLY ANDREW
THE WHISPERING DARK
I am made of death
KELLY ANDREW
YOUR BLOOD, MY BONES
KELLY ANDREW

PERFECT FOR FANS OF DYSTOPIAN FICTION

THE HUNGER GAMES
SUZANNE COLLINS
CATCHING FIRE
SUZANNE COLLINS
SUNRISE ON THE REAPING
SUZANNE COLLINS
MOCKINGJAY
SUZANNE COLLINS
THE HUNGER GAMES
THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS & SNAKES
SUZANNE COLLINS

PERFECT FOR FANS OF ROMANCE

ANN LIANG
This time it's Real
ANN LIANG
I hope this doesn't find you
OKAY, CUPID
MASON DEAVER
BRIAN SELZNICK
RUN AWAY WITH ME

PERFECT FOR FANS OF HEARTSTOPPER

SOLITAIRE
ALICE OSEMAN
THIS WINTER
ALICE OSEMAN
ALICE OSEMAN
NICK and CHARLIE

PERFECT FOR FANS OF HORROR

THE HONEYS
Ryan La Sala
THE GETAWAY
LAMAR GILES
BEHOLDER
RYAN LA SALA
LAMAR GILES
RUIN ROAD
READ BY J.D. JACKSON

SCHOLASTIC TM/® Scholastic Inc.